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THE TIMES

No. 65,186 THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

Calls to lift Terrorism Act resisted

Howard may end system of exclusion

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is considering plans to drop the use of exclusion orders under which Northern Ireland residents can be banned from the British mainland.

Under increasing pressure from Dublin and the Opposition parties to respond to the cessation of paramilitary violence, the Home Secretary is also expected to lift some of the 58 banning orders in force. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, was subjected to such a ban until after the IRA ceasefire came into effect.

The exclusion powers have been bitterly resented because they have been seen as leaving banned residents "in internal exile" in Northern Ireland.

However, Mr Howard is expected to resist calls for a repeal or a substantial revision of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, of which the exclusion order provisions are part. Its powers to detain suspects for up to seven days without charge are also much opposed by civil liberties groups. The Home Secretary wants the Act in force because it can be used against terrorists with no connection with Northern Ireland.

With the Act due for its annual renewal in the Commons next month, Labour and the Liberal Democrats are pressing the Government for a pledge of a review of anti-terrorist legislation to take account of the changed climate in Northern Ireland. The Liberal Democrats indicated yesterday that they might join Labour in withholding support for the renewal of the Act unless ministers offered big concessions. The Government is leaving a decision on its strategy until the last moment to take account of the latest developments in Ulster, but the Cabinet's committee on Northern Ireland will discuss the compromise plan to abandon the use of exclusion orders towards the end of this month.



Howard: wants to keep anti-terrorism law

Ministers hope that that would be enough to bring the Opposition parties on board and prevent a political row at Westminster that would be out of tune with the bipartisan approach to the peace process that has been so strongly welcomed by John Major.

London made plain yesterday that it regarded as premature a call from Dublin to dismantle the Act. Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, urged Britain to consider whether it needed to keep "legislation that has proved controversial".

His remarks came after the Dail had voted to lift the Irish Republic's state of emergency provisions. He said that repeal or relaxation of the law would make "a considerable contribution to creating a climate conducive to agreement and political progress".

Unionists criticised Mr Spring. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionists' legal affairs spokesman, described Mr Spring's comments as premature after a bomb containing 11lb of Semtex was found in Newry, Co Down, on Tuesday night. He added that Britain should not disarm while the terrorists still had their stockpiles of weapons.

The MP for Upper Bann accused the IRA of using blackmail after the Semtex bomb was discovered in a hold-all outside a Texas superstore. The police sealed off the area after receiving a telephone warning shortly before 9.30pm.

Army bomb-disposal experts carried out three controlled explosions on the device which contained, as well as the explosives, batteries, a timer and a detonator. The discovery came nearly three months after members of the IRA shot dead a postal worker in Newry in a raid that was disowned by the terrorist leadership.

The IRA denied yesterday that it had planted the bomb. But Mr Trimble said the IRA was the only organisation in Northern Ireland with access to Semtex and that the terrorists intended to use the bomb to force ministers to retreat over the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document.

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Leading article, page 19

ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Princess of Wales curtsies as she shakes hands with Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday

Princess's day of success at two courts

BY GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO, AND ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN in moments of triumph, protocol takes precedence over pleasure, and nowhere more so than in Japan.

The Princess of Wales, clearly delighted at the out-of-court settlement over the controversial photographs of her exercising in a gym, curtsied deeply to Empress Michiko, while Emperor Akihito looked on. Wives of heirs to thrones, whether estranged or not, are clearly outranked by wives of heads of state.

A single telephone call to the British Embassy in Tokyo had ended a 15-month legal battle over covert photographs of the Princess of Wales exercising in a leotard. As the Princess prepared for the final day of her successful tour, an urgent message came from her lawyers. They had agreed a £1 million settlement with Mirror Group Newspapers. Her legal fees are estimated at £700,000 while the £300,000 earned by the pictures will go to to the charity of her choice.

That afternoon, the Princess took tea with three generations of the Imperial Family, an event regarded as unusual in protocol-conscious Japan for having been arranged at short notice and during a visit that was not only unofficial but arranged at the her instigation.

She concluded her day with a visit to Japanese Red Cross headquarters to be briefed on the Kobe earthquake.

Her three days in Japan have been the most important overseas tour undertaken by the Princess since her separation. However, the sight of a member of the Royal Family curtseying low to the representatives of a former enemy is still likely to arouse anger.

No winners, page 5

Court paras disciplined

Four paratroopers who were freed by a judge after a ferocious attack on a father of two have been disciplined by their commanding officer. Lance Corporals Stuart Baillie and Justin Woodcock were reduced to the rank of private and with Private Craig Harris and Private James Collins they were given formal warnings .....Page 3

Fears over demo victim's funeral

The mother of animal rights campaigner Jill Phipps said she was surprised when a canon of Coventry cathedral offered the building for her daughter's funeral. Nancy Phipps said she hoped it would not be a "circus for animal rights" .....Page 2

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'Dreadful humans' make minister prefer his car

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

STEVEN NORRIS, the minister in charge of London transport, came under attack last night after branding the users of public transport "dreadful human beings".

He told fellow MPs that cars were extraordinarily convenient. "You have your own company, your own temperature control, your own music and don't have to put up with dreadful human beings sitting alongside you," he said.

Opposition MPs rushed to condemn the minister. "This is a gross insult to public transport users," Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said. "It speaks volumes about the sincerity of ministers' claims to want to improve public transport."

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said: "These ministers live in a world of their own — chauffeur-driven cars, off-peak travel and guaranteed parking spaces."

Last night Mr Norris, 49, a junior transport minister since 1992, said in a statement that his comments at the Commons Environment Select Committee had been taken out of context.

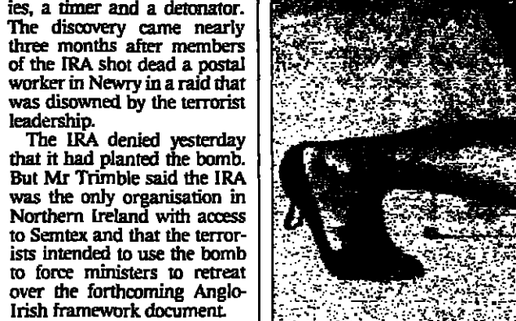
The statement added: "The plain fact is that given a choice people prefer to travel by car.

roads.

"I was making the point that even with investment in public transport it is difficult to compete with the lure of a private vehicle where you can shut yourself away from the outside world." Officials were at pains to emphasise last night that Mr Norris was a frequent user of public transport.

Mr Norris, who lists one of his recreations in *Who's Who* as "not walking", drives a Jaguar and owns shares in a Volkswagen-Audi dealership called Anthony Ince Ltd in Salisbury and Weston-super-Mare.

This was formerly known as Steve Norris Ltd, of which he was chairman.



Mr Norris belts up in his ministerial car yesterday

Yogic fliers buy former airbase

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Natural Law Party, which believes that yogic flying can cure the ills of modern society, has bought a former United States Air Force base from the Ministry of Defence.

The group, which already owns Mentmore Towers in Buckinghamshire, has the backing of the local council for its plans to turn the 1,000-acre site, complete with runway, into a university with 4,000 students.

The proposed campus at Bentwaters, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, will offer degree courses in areas such as management, technology, public administration, science and humanities.

It will be part of the Maharishi University of Natural Law at Mentmore and also offers the Natural Law-based programmes of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. These centre on the belief that stress is the root of all evil and that through transcendental meditation people can master yogic flying in which the body first moves up and down, then hovers and finally performs acrobatics in mid-air.

At the European elections last year, the Natural Law Party, the political wing of the Maharishi Foundation, said that the positive energy created by 7,000 yogic flyers would calm even Tory divisions over the future of the Community. In the last general election its candidates stood for every seat in England.

But the Defence Ministry's decision to sell the site, which housed 13,000 American military personnel, their families and local people until two years ago, brought scornful protests from Labour last night.

Jamie Cann, Labour MP for Ipswich, accused the ministry of failing to take into account the national interest in disposing of the site, which could be an economic asset to the area.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that where there was no longer a use for defence land, the aim was to dispose of it to the best advantage of the taxpayer.

Queen's English rings no bells on US phones

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE American telephone system boasts the most sophisticated technology in the world — unless the caller happens to be British.

State-of-the-art voice-recognition computers in use across the country routinely discriminate against people who speak with a British accent.

"If it's a very strong British accent, it's less likely to understand, especially a word like 'operator', which is one of the most difficult words in the system," Bob Ford, a spokesman for AT&T Bell Laboratories, said.

The voice-recognition system, developed by the company in New Jersey, answers calls that would normally require an operator. A recorded voice asks callers how they would like to pay, with the instruction: "Please say 'collect', 'calling card', 'third number', 'person-to-person' or 'operator'."

However, a British caller has, for instance, to repeat the word "operator" several times in a mock American accent — something like "ah-per-aid-er" — before eliciting a response. AT&T, which developed the system three years ago and sells it to regional telephone companies, says the voice-recognition technology translated thousands of voices into digitised form to come up with an "average" voice pattern.

In the last year, the automatic answering system has fielded more than a billion calls and been able to understand more than 90 per cent of them.

"The templates of speech which we got from literally thousands of voices to set this system up were all American speakers, American English, not British English," said Mr Ford. "We have to use what we have got, which is the American idiom. It's finally an American system because that's where our customers are."

He said that callers who speak English with other non-American accents may also fall victim to the technology, as might people with speech impediments or heavy colds.

Mr Ford holds out hope that continuing research will increase the computers' ability to recognise those who hail from across the Atlantic.

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MPs sharpen their tongues for Insolence Week


Fabricant: fresh breath

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

IT WAS 2.30. Trade and Industry Questions were under way, and MPs were back from lunch. Michael Fabricant (C) opened his mouth wide and administered two quick bursts of spray-in breath-freshener as the television cameras whirred. Perhaps Mr Fabricant has caught the Thatcherite spirit and been sponsored by *Gold Spot* to send out subliminal plugs from the very heart of the legislature.

And for Fabricant it does seem to work. The MP for Mid Staffs is never anything but bright and breezy; so far as we know, nothing offensive or stale has ever escaped his lips. He shuns the toxic soundbites in which other backbenchers revel.

If only the same were true of the others! Yesterday Madam Speaker reached such a pitch of despair at the abuse which passes for parliamentary debate that she read out a Statement from the Chair. She was, she said, dismayed at how English was being "manipulated across the Chamber". Couldn't Members "make use of the richness of the language to select elegant phrases" to express their meaning?

Some hope. On Tuesday Ann Widdecombe, an Employment Minister, had told Labour's former actress, Glenda Jackson, that she was sure Ms Jackson had never sought any job on the basis of her looks. Not many minutes later the Prime Minister had called the Leader of the Opposition a dimwit. Yesterday Nigel Griffiths, a Labour spokesman, called Charles Wardle, a DTI minister, a nitwit.

Meanwhile Steve Norris, the Transport Minister, shudders at public transport, where we must rub shoulders with the "dreadful human beings" who travel by bus. It seems the printer's devil at *Hansard* was prescient last Friday. A Question about national insurance was headlined: "National Insolance *[sic]* Fund". At Westminster, this is shaping up as National Insolence Week.

As ever, Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) led the way. This 70-year-old dame, Westminster's Hell's Granny, specialises in wrecking Labour backbenchers' questions by shrieking "Too long!", "Sit down!", "No! Oh *no!*" — or (as yesterday) all *three*. Jim Marshall (Lab, Leicester S) was beaten up by the Dame when he asked about mergers of electricity companies. Labour's Robert Wareing (Liverpool W Derby) was mauled when Dame Elaine, wishing to show she disputed his sentiments and making use of the richness of the language to select an elegant phrase, chose "Rubbish!"

Worse, one of the DTI ministers appeared to have been fighting. Ian Taylor had a gash on the top of the bald patch on his head.

There are three bald ministers at the DTI. The proud-maned Heseltine has decreed "Let me have men about me that are bald." for Ian Taylor, Roger Evans and Mr Wardle — a sort of Tweedledum, Tweedledee and Humpty Dumpty of a trio — are distinguishable only by those who can spot the slight variations in the positioning of their respective bald patches. Yesterday it was easier, due to Mr Taylor's accident.

It occurred on Tuesday in Brussels. "There I was," the minister told MPs yesterday, "face to face with Commissioner Van Miert, fighting for Britain." Miss Boothroyd looked alarmed, the Press corps interested.

How disappointing, then, that my telephone call to Mr Taylor's office should reveal that the gash was inflicted not by a panicking Belgian, but by the door of Mr Taylor's ministerial limousine.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldier jailed for shooting mourners

A soldier was jailed for ten years yesterday for the attempted murder of a leading republican in Belfast.

Trooper Andrew Clarke, of the 9th/12th Lancers, fired 20 shots at mourners, injuring Eddie Copeland, outside the home of Thomas Begley days after the IRA terrorist had blown himself up in a bomb attack on the Shankill Road, Belfast Crown Court was told.

In interviews with police Clarke, 27, from Merseyside, said he was frustrated at seeing suspected terrorists walking freely and taunting soldiers. Lord Justice Carswell told Clarke he had abused the standards required of a soldier.

Union fined

The postal workers union has been fined £7,500 and ordered to pay costs of about £100,000 for contempt of court. The Communication Workers Union was held by Mr Justice Drake in the High Court to be responsible for an unofficial strike by thousands of workers in London last month.

Rail axe delay

Hopes were raised that the loss-making rail sleeper from London to Fort William in the west Highlands might be reprieved after Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the junior Scottish Office minister, told MPs that there would be full consultation with local communities before the service could be axed.

£100,000 necklace

An antique pearl and diamond necklace which belonged to Empress Josephine's grand-daughter sold for £111,500, three times the estimate, at Christie's in London yesterday. The necklace was sold with its original inventory card listing it as having been owned by Queen Josephina of Sweden.

Stewart may sue

Allan Stewart, who resigned as a Scottish Office minister after allegedly brandishing a pick-axe, may sue over media reports of a fracas with motorway protesters. He has sought legal advice over reports of his encounter with protesters campaigning against the M77 motorway extension in Glasgow.

Avon's swansong

An eleventh-hour attempt by Avon County Council to halt local authority changes that will bring about its abolition failed in the High Court. Counsel for Avon said that inadequate time had been given for consultation. The draft order for the changes will, as planned, be placed before Parliament today.

Police hold two

Police hunting two men who killed a pensioner by running him over as they took his car from outside his home have made two arrests. Robert Inchcliffe, 77, of Hartlepool, died from a fractured skull a day after he was struck by his own car last weekend. The two men held are aged 19 and 20.

Smell of success

Luciano Pavarotti, the opera singer, is launching his own aftershave, a range of bath products and a perfume for women in April to coincide with two concerts, an album and a new opera in Britain. The perfume, which will be sold at Harrods, is described as "an orchestration of emotions".

CORRECTION

An agency report (February 6) wrongly stated that the Royal Oak hotel, Winsford, Somerset, had been destroyed by fire. In fact, only part of the accommodation was damaged, and the hotel will be operational again in the near future.

Mandatory life for murder too rigid, Lords tell inquiry

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH pressure was put on the Government to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder last night with calls for its abolition from Lord Lane, a former Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Windlesham, a former Home Office Minister.

Lord Windlesham, who chaired The Parole Board in the 1980s, told MPs on the Home Affairs Committee that the controversy over Private Lee Clegg — serving life after he shot and killed a joyrider in Northern Ireland — would not have arisen if the courts had been free to impose a sentence other than life.

He said life imprisonment should be reserved for the most serious offences. "It would became the most severe penalty for the most grave offences known to the criminal law, but would not be applied where clearly inappropriate."

Lord Windlesham added that abolishing the mandatory sentence would "resolve a great many of the now indefensible anomalies . . . which create the sort of situation we have in the recent case of Private Clegg".

Lord Lane, who was Lord Chief Justice from 1980 to 1992, backed the proposals of a House of Lords select committee on murder in 1989, rejected by the Government, that would have allowed Private Clegg a defence that he acted in self defence, reducing the charge to manslaughter.

Lord Lane said that the mandatory life sentence was too rigid to be applied to the whole range of different kinds of murders committed. It should be reserved for the "truly heinous murders" and in such cases, such a sentence could be 30 to 40 years and would mean life. At present it was applied to a whole range of murders from the most wicked crimes to mercy-killing or someone acting in the heat of the moment.

Lord Lane added that the public knew that a sentence of life rarely meant that. "It is a travesty to say, 'You will go to prison for life', when everyone knows they will not go to prison for life.

"By all means keep it for the really wicked murders and mean it, and then the public will start to realise that life in prison means life in prison."

The committee of MPs were opening an inquiry into mandatory life sentences that was agreed before the furore over the jailing of Private Clegg and is separate from that ordered by the Home Secretary from officials.

Both men criticised the present arrangements whereby the length of a life sentence was determined by the executive behind closed doors and not by the judiciary.

Lord Lane said the length of a life sentence was "all done in private, when the junior minister discusses it with members of the Civil Service, the Home Office". Judges, victims, their relatives or defendants did not know what was decided or why.

Lord Windlesham said the system of life sentences would be stronger for abolishing the mandatory sentence and giving judges the discretion to impose the right sentence for the crime.

There had been a gradual diminution of the powers of the executive over sentencing. "I am fairly confident we will see more of this whittling away, this gradual erosion of executive power over sentencing and the last and most important step, which I believe will come, is the mandatory life sentence."


Nancy Phipps says Canon Oestreicher offered Coventry Cathedral for the funeral

Mother surprised at veal woman's funeral honour

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE mother of dead animal rights campaigner Jill Phipps said yesterday she was surprised when a canon of Coventry Cathedral offered the building for her daughter's funeral.

Nancy Phipps, who said her family and daughter were not Christian, said she was concerned that the funeral should not be turned into a "circus for animal rights". Mrs Phipps said: "Canon [Paul] Oestreicher offered the cathedral. He came. He offered and we did not expect it. We would never think of the cathedral.

"We told him we were not religious in the accepted Christian term, just spiritualist. Jill did not like Christianity with all the trappings and humbug. She was spiritual more than Christian."

Jill, 31, of Coronation Road, Hillfields, fell under the wheels of a veal lorry as she tried to stop it pulling into Coventry Airport last week.

Canon Oestreicher, a friend of former hostage Terry Waite and with a long record as a peace campaigner, denied any approach to the family.

"No. I didn't make any offer to anyone. I really don't want to make any comment," he said.

The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, spokesman for the Coventry diocese, said Canon Oestreicher offered the cathedral on the understanding that the offer would be confirmed by Provost John Petty.

The original idea of using the cathedral for the funeral came up in the confusion and grief of a pastoral visit to the Phipps household, when Canon Oestreicher was with the local vicar, the Rev David Berryman. It became clear that the numbers expected at the funeral might exceed the capacities of the parish church of St Peter's, Hillfields.

Mrs Phipps said: "It is not going to be a circus for animal rights, we can promise that. It's going to be a mark of respect for Jill.

Canon Oestreicher was criticised as a "radical" by the Archdeacon of York, the Ven George Austin. He said he thought it right that Miss Phipps have a funeral service, whether she was a Christian or not, but opposed any steps to turn a funeral into a demonstration.


Jill Phipps who died under a veal lorry

Waldegrave attacks animal protests

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND EMMA WILKINS

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, the Agriculture Minister, launched a strong attack on animal rights activists yesterday saying that their protests had gone beyond what was acceptable in a democracy.

He pleased farmers at their annual conference in London by telling them that the trade in live animals was legal and would remain so. The task ahead was to improve the conditions in which animals were transported and reared throughout Europe. Speaking afterwards, Mr Waldegrave said: "The protests have done their job. The country is united in seeking changes to European law. If the next stage is to say 'We don't care what you say about the law, we are still going to interrupt a legal trade', then that goes beyond what in a democracy is right."

Mr Waldegrave disclosed that he is to meet his French counterpart, Jean Puech, in London on Monday to discuss animal welfare and the phasing out of "veal crates".

A lorry carrying 420 sheep for live export to Belgium crashed near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday, killing more than 180 animals and leaving a woman car passenger and a four-year-old boy seriously injured.

Speaker tells MPs to choose elegance not abuse

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR'S description of Tony Blair as "a dimwit" earned a severe rebuke from Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker yesterday. MPs have become far too sloppy and uncouth when speaking in the House, she said.

Miss Boothroyd wants them to watch their language after Mr Major's "dimwit" on Tuesday was followed by a "nitwit" and then Labour's Tony Banks employed an unprintable American epithet to describe Steven Norris, a Transport Minister, yesterday.

An angry Miss Boothroyd declared that name-calling and spiteful invective did not enhance the Commons in the eyes of voters. Although she did not cite any specific cases, or name Mr Major, she warned errant MPs: "There are some honourable and right honourable Members who seem to think that it is rather smart or clever to manipulate the English language in making references to other Members across the floor of this House."

To a hushed House she lectured: "Good temper, and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language. I do hope that in future interventions all Members will bear that in mind and we shall make use of the richness of the English language to select elegant phrases that express their meaning without causing offence to others."

Mr Major lost his temper with the Labour leader on Tuesday at Question Time when he was repeatedly pressed to say whether he supported a single European currency. Mr Major's reply — "Frankly, only a dimwit would ask me to" — marked a new level of abuse between the two leaders.

A century ago whimsical insults were forbidden. This century MPs have been addressed in the Chamber as "you little twerps" or "amiable dumb-bells" or "hamsters". But "liar" remains an unparliamentary term as do several more scatalogical insults which have also been tried.

One may call a group of MPs hypocrites and frauds and accuse them of bribery, hypocrisy and even treachery, but never of being drunk, according to *Nothing Good Will Ever Come Of It*, an anthology of MPs' language by Phil Mason.

To outsiders the Speaker's test seems arbitary, but Miss Boothroyd has firm ideas on what she believes constitutes an elegant phrase. "Telling 'porkies' you say. I think we will not have that word," she rebuked one MP in 1992.

But she will allow "bunk", "humbug" and "fatheads" and Mr Banks once got away with calling Terry Dicks "an inflated pig's bladder on a stick."

Mr Major had to apologise for his colourful language in the House in November 1993 when he accused John Smith, the former Labour leader, of being "odious" and later wrote a note to apologise.

New Clause Four 'practical'

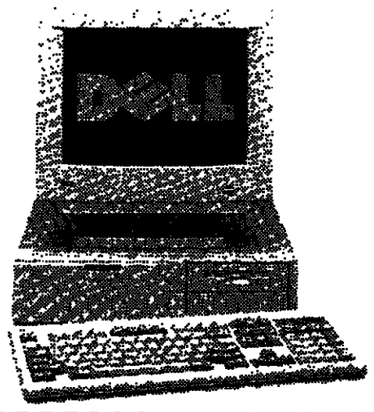
JACK STRAW, one of Labour's leading modernisers, has clashed with opponents of Tony Blair's attempts to rewrite Clause Four (Jill Sherman writes).

Mr Straw, the first Shadow Cabinet Minister to suggest that the party's commitment to nationalisation be ditched, argued that the Labour leader would become more accountable to his party with "a believable" Clause Four.

Speaking in support of Mr Blair at a debate held by the Fabian Society last night, Mr Straw said that the only function of the clause had been to feed the culture of betrayal "with a less than properly accountable leadership on the one side, and activists crying 'treachery' on the other". He said: "Get a practical, believable Clause Four and the leadership will become more answerable to the movement, not less."

Mr Straw claimed that the debate was turning in the leader's favour with party members reacting badly to efforts by those opposing change to end the debate.

He argued that there was nothing in the present Clause Four about democracy, empowerment, opportunity, freedom, equality and rights. "Let's have the confidence to say what we mean, mean what we say, to give the British people the confidence to elect a Labour government," he said.


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Paras in brutal attack allowed to stay in the Army

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

FOUR paratroopers who were freed by a judge after a ferocious attack on a father of two were disciplined by their commanding officer yesterday. Lance Corporals Stuart Baillie, 26, and Justin Woodcock, 22, were reduced to the rank of private.

With Private Craig Harris, 25, and Private James Collins, 21, they were given formal warnings about their future behaviour and black marks were entered in the personal regimental records of all four.

Their commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Godfrey McFall, had the power to send them to military prison or discharge them from the Army. It emerged yesterday that Woodcock had a previous conviction for attacking a civilian. After returning from a tour of duty in Northern Ireland he assaulted a youth in 1992 and was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay compensation.

The four soldiers, who admitted unlawfully wounding James McGuire, 33, were ordered by a judge on Tuesday to pay compensation to their victim and perform 200 hours of community service. The judge's decision has provoked anger in Aldershot, home to the British Army for more than a century.

Julian Critchley, the local Tory MP, complained of the indiscipline of some troops



Critchley: concerned

and said that "respectable mothers" in the town to keep their daughters at home at night. He said that Aldershot had suffered "a lot of trouble over the years" from the Army. While he admired the Army "immensely", he said that he was concerned at the indiscipline and the frequent "vicious" incidents that took place "particularly on Saturday nights".

Superintendent Barry Saunders, sub-divisional commander for North East Hampshire which includes Aldershot, described the night the soldiers' victim, James McGuire, staggered into the police station just 200 yards from where he had been kicked and beaten.

Mr Saunders said the father of two had both arms broken, one "very badly" and was "in great pain and very distressed". He was attacked outside the Night Owls club late one night last September. "It was a sustained and horrendous attack, the worst case which did not lead to death that we saw in the whole of last year," Mr Saunders said.

He was "surprised" by the decision of Judge MacLaren Webster QC but said it was a "gross exaggeration" to suggest it was not safe to walk the streets of Aldershot at night.

The four soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, based in Aldershot, were with their unit in Belfast last night. Harris, Woodcock and Collins have written a letter of apology to Mr McGuire which said: "It was a stupid mindless act, not thinking of the injuries that could be the result of our actions."

Christopher Hill, their solicitor, said that Harris and Collins had spent five months on remand at Winchester Prison before the case. Baillie, who was on bail, was under close arrest at barracks. He said that they welcomed the opportunity to pay compensation totalling £10,000.

Mr McGuire, 33, who criticised the sentence on Tuesday, was unavailable for comment yesterday having decided to sell his side of his case to a national newspaper. His solicitor, Ian Johnstone, said he would be discussing with Mr McGuire what action might be taken to pursue further compensation for his injuries.

Mr McGuire, a self-employed carpet cleaner, has not been able to work since the attack. Mr Johnstone said that it was up to the Attorney-General to decide whether the sentence was too light and should be referred to the Court of Appeal.

David Railton, 43-year-old landlord of The George pub, which is favoured by The Parachute Regiment, was also angry yesterday over the light sentence. The former Irish Guardsman said: "They should have been jailed but my experience of Parachute Regiment members who drink here is that they cause little trouble. Nine times out of ten they are well behaved."



A customer at the Airborne Inn in Aldershot, one of the favourite watering holes with paratroopers



Police working in the garden of a house in Walsall where they found bones, believed to be those of Dawn Falconer, beneath a lawn

Man held as girl's bones found in garden

By Dominic Kennedy

A HUMAN skeleton was found in a garden yesterday by police digging for a 16-year-old girl who vanished in 1978. The discovery of the remains, believed to be those of Dawn Falconer, came after the arrest of a labourer for alleged rape and indecency.

The police continued to search the garden in Walsall, West Midlands, but did not expect to find any more bodies. The breakthrough in a 17-year-old mystery was a complaint by a woman on Monday that she had been raped as a young girl 20 years ago.

David Sharpe, 53, a grandfather, was arrested at his home on Tuesday and has been questioned by police. As a result of the rape allegation and interviews with the woman, West Midlands Police renewed their search for Dawn, a mildly mentally retarded girl who disappeared from her home in North Street, Walsall, on a summer evening and was never seen again.

Shortly before first light yesterday, Lisa Lloyd, 28, a mother of two young children, was informed that police wanted to excavate her garden. The three-bedroom council house is a former home of Mr Sharpe. The Lloyd family is thought to have no connection with the missing girl.

Within two hours of their arrival police found bones buried 4ft below a lawn at the edge of a concrete patio. A Home Office pathologist examined the remains to establish the cause of death.

Mr Sharpe's first wife, Margaret, is thought to have left him. Their two sons and two daughters have become estranged from their father. Ten years ago Mr Sharpe remarried and later moved with his new wife, Betty, to a small flat across the road.

Betty Sharpe, 59, at first predicted yesterday that the only grave police would find was that of their collie. "You could not meet a nicer man," she said. "The only thing they will find in the garden is Lassie, our collie dog that died seven years ago. There is nothing else there." When police discovered a skeleton, she said: "I have never heard of Dawn Falconer."

Mrs Sharpe added later: "I don't care what he has done. He is a good man and I will stand by him. I don't care what people are saying, he just isn't capable of doing anything like this. Whatever happens, I love him and will be by his side."

Mr Sharpe's stepdaughter, Carole Johnson, 26, of Willenhall, Walsall, said: "David is a brilliant stepdad. I have three children and he is the perfect grandfather for them. We've been called killers by people in our street. People have threatened to smash our windows. I heard about a girl about the same age as me going missing around here but it couldn't be anything to do with David."



Dawn Falconer: she went missing in 1978

The disappearance of Dawn, a pupil at Forest Comprehensive School, was briefly recorded in the *Evening Mail*, Birmingham, in June 1978. Police described her as slim, of fair complexion, with blue eyes, short black curly hair and said she was slightly mentally retarded and needed regular medical attention for asthma. The report added: "When she left home she is believed to have been wearing black trousers, a red and white T-shirt, black nylon bomber jacket and white plimsolls."

Supt Ken Perry, of Walsall police, said at the time: "Dawn has been reported missing from home before but under all circumstances we are concerned for her safety."

Threats from United supporters drive Cantona's victim into hiding

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

THE Crystal Palace football fan attacked by Eric Cantona with a flying kick has been forced to leave his home because of a campaign of vengeance against him by Manchester United supporters. Matthews Simmons said yesterday that he had become the target of anonymous death threats and abuse and was now living secretly with a friend.

His home telephone number and address in south London have been printed on leaflets and T-shirts on sale outside Old Trafford. The details are accompanied by the slogans "Thug warning" and "Wanted for treason against King Eric".

Police said that Cantona, who has been suspended by United until the end of the season, had shown a "blatant disregard" for their inquiries yesterday by failing to accompany Paul Ince, his team-mate, to South Norwood police station in south London. The French international forward is on holiday in Antigua.

Cantona's solicitor, Maurice Watkins, said: "It is just not true that Eric Cantona has failed to turn up at South Norwood police station today. No appointment had been made for him to appear and the police were fully aware of this."

A police spokesman said that Ince, the England midfield player, was arrested as he arrived at the station and bailed to appear later. He was not charged.

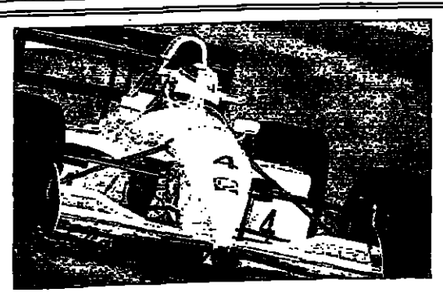
Mr Simmons, 20, a self-employed glazier, said yesterday that he was very frightened. "People have been calling all times of the day and night and saying they will get me. It is a disgrace. People seem to think that I am the bad one out of all this."

Some United supporters have blamed Mr Simmons for provoking the attack in the Premiership match at Selhurst Park on January 25. Witnesses claim he ran down 11 rows of seats to abuse the Frenchman as he was walking along the touchline after being sent off. Michael Pickett, a friend, said that his fellow Palace supporter had told the player to go back to France and had made a derisory gesture.

The fracas between the two men, in which Ince later became involved, was caught by television cameras and described by Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive, as "unprecedented" and a "stain on the game". Cantona faces an FA disciplinary inquiry on February 24.

Mr Simmons, who in 1992 was convicted for hitting a petrol station cashier with a spanner in an attempted robbery, insisted yesterday that he been wrongly presented as a hooligan and was suffering "a lot of stress".

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Speed warriors

THE TYRRELL TEAM'S SEARCH FOR A WINNING FORMULA IN

CAR 95

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Drug dealer tried to kill policemen

By A Staff Reporter

A COCAINE dealer who shot two unarmed policemen when they tried to carry out a routine check in a Brixton street was convicted of attempted murder at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Leroy Smith, who was linked to the Jamaican-based Yardie gangs, later boasted to his girlfriend: "Those two deserved to get it. I should have got them good and proper." Arrested in the United States with an arsenal of weapons, Smith, 26, from Clapham, south London, told American officers: "They shouldn't have come after me without guns."

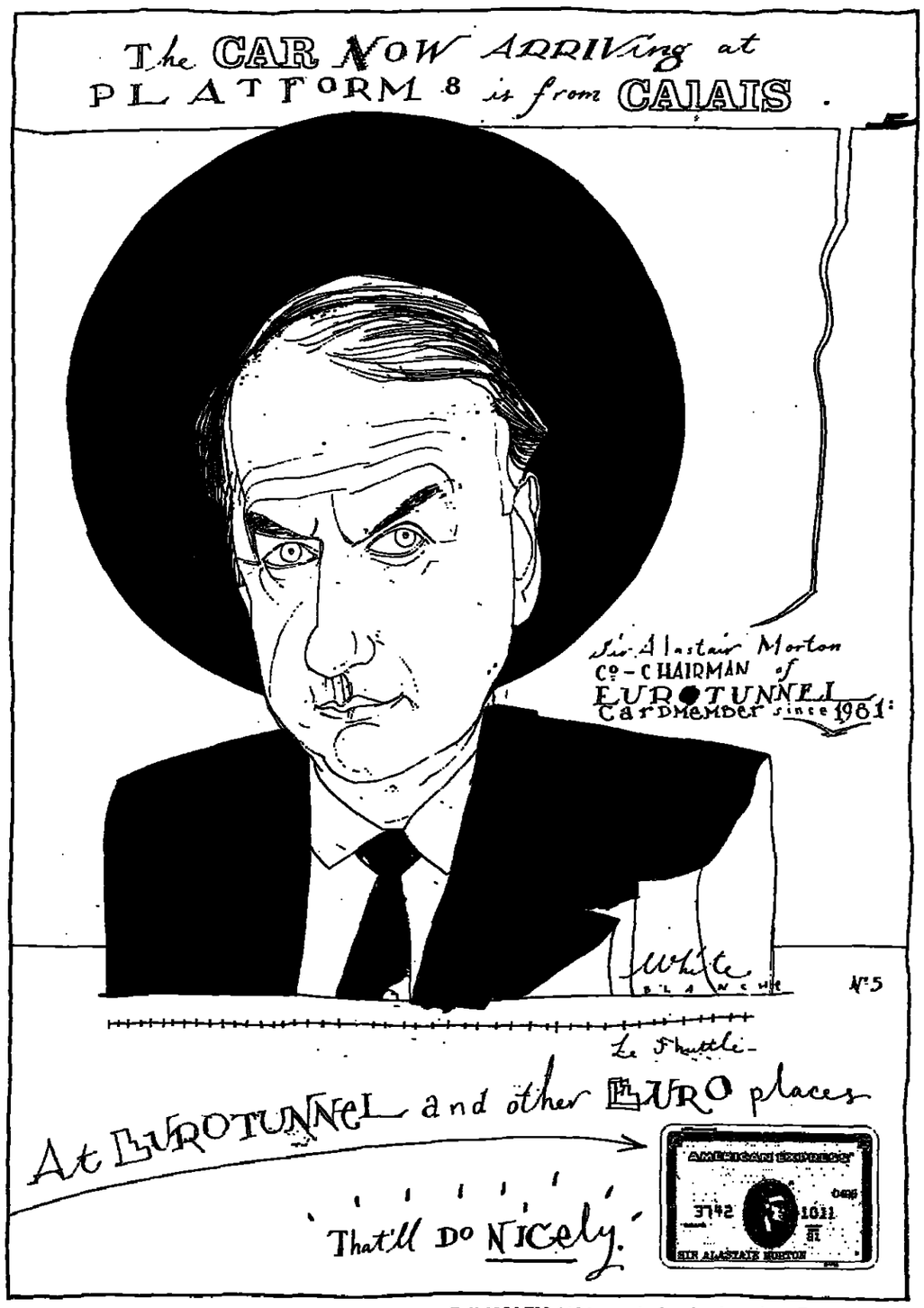
PC James Seymour, 32, was shot in the back and PC Simon Carroll, 23, was hit in the leg in the shooting last March. The officers narrowly escaped death. PC Carroll has been left permanently disabled with one leg shorter than the other. His colleague had a lucky escape when the bullet missed every vital organ as it passed through his body from back to front.

It was one of several armed attacks by Smith using a powerful 9mm handgun equipped with laser targeting. During the trial the jury was told Smith was obsessed with the weapon and constantly showed it to friends.

Yesterday Smith, who is British born of Jamaican parents, was found guilty of attempting to murder PC Seymour, wounding PC Carroll with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, two charges of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life and robbing a jeweller's. He will be sentenced today. Vivian Parchment, 25, Streatham, south London, was cleared of attempted murder and wounding.

The court was told that the officers were on duty in a marked police car when they noticed a smart motorcycle outside a public house. They went to talk to Mr Parchment and his passenger, Smith. As they approached Smith pulled out a gun and opened fire before escaping on the motorcycle, which weaved between cars and jumped a red light.

Smith fled the country on a false passport and settled in America.



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Audiences welcome tough questioning

Paxman named as rudest interviewer in BBC survey

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY PAXMAN, presenter of *Newsnight*, BBC2's current affairs programme, is the rudest interviewer in the BBC, according to a corporation survey.

The survey, commissioned by a working group of BBC editors last year, showed that 61 per cent of people found Mr Paxman to be less polite than he should be. John Humphrys, a presenter on Radio 4's *Today* programme, was considered too discourteous by 37 per cent of respondents, and Sir David Frost, presenter of the BBC1 Sunday morning programme *Breakfast with Frost*, by 35 per cent.

The survey, which was undertaken after complaints from BBC governors about the hectoring tone of some of the corporation's senior journalists, also showed, however, that courtesy was not the most pressing concern of BBC audiences. While 13 per cent of listeners and viewers said they were annoyed by rude interviewers, 36 per cent were dissatisfied that questioners let politicians get away with not giving full answers.

The results showed that Mr Paxman was rated an outstandingly good interviewer by 18 per cent of respondents. Only James Naughtie, another *Today* presenter, was valued more highly, with 19 per cent describing him as outstanding. Sue MacGregor, also from the *Today* programme, who was considered by far the most polite interviewer, was considered outstandingly good by 11 per cent.



Paxman: 18 per cent rate him as outstanding

Senior BBC journalists say that the survey, carried out nearly a year ago, undermines a speech given last week by John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, in which he accused political interviewers of becoming increasingly self-important, overbearing and rude. Many senior BBC staff were infuriated by the speech, but most are reluctant to comment on it openly.

Jenny Abramsky, controller of Radio 5 Live, yesterday broke the silence by defending presenters on her network against the charges, claiming they were extremely polite. "They are not confrontational, they are challenging," she said. "I'm quite confident that [Mr Birt] was not referring to anyone on our network." Ms Abramsky, who launched the 24-hour news and sport network last year, said she felt her reporters measured up well to Mr Birt's standards.

But she rejected his view that journalists should never report speculation or gossip. In the proper context, such reporting was valid. "We always try to look at what is going on. If there is gossip going around Westminster we would try to cover and we do cover it," Ms Abramsky said.

☐ Ms Abramsky yesterday announced new programmes for Radio 5 Live, including a month-long series on crime. Running from May 15 to June 11, *Laying Down the Law* will feature a live broadcast from inside a high-security prison.

The season will also include a programme about how juries operate. Ms Abramsky said she was aware that jurors were bound by law not to discuss any case they had served on but refused to say whether the programme contained interviews with jurors.

She also announced that *The Financial World Tonight*, whose audience has fallen from 300,000 to 100,000 since it was transferred from Radio 4 to Radio 5 Live last year, would be moved from 11.45pm to 11.15pm in an attempt to win back listeners.

Janet Daley, page 18

A QUESTION OF MICROPHONE MANNERS

Tables from the confidential BBC Performance Review, based on a telephone survey.

1. How often, in your opinion, is the interviewer less polite than s/he should be when interviewing politicians?

%	Frost %	Paxman %	Snow %	Humphrys %	MacGregor %	Naughtie %
Most times	1	7	2	2	1	2
Often	4	12	3	6	1	2
Occasionally	30	42	25	29	17	28
Total	35	61	30	37	19	32

2. Overall, how good a job would you say the interviewer makes of interviewing politicians?

	Frost %	Paxman %	Snow %	Humphrys %	MacGregor %	Naughtie %
Outstandingly good	18	18	6	18	11	19
Very good	50	48	48	61	53	53
Fairly good	25	27	41	20	31	25
Total	93	93	95	97	95	97

CHRIS HARRIS



The Prince of Wales meeting members of the Miles Platting Community Assembly in Manchester yesterday

Prince extols industry's heroes

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday extolled the growing readiness of business and industry to play a social role in the community and called for more partnerships to encourage local enterprise.

The Prince, who was presenting the 1994 Community Enterprise awards at the Granada television studios in Manchester, said the winners had shown themselves to be determined to make a difference to the quality of life in areas where it could frequently be difficult and depressing. They were an example of practical idealism.

"Companies will benefit in the long term from being active in the local community by working in partnership to improve educational standards, the economic prospects of inner cities and through contributing to making towns and cities safer, healthier and more enterprising," the Prince said. He applauded "the unsung heroes" whose work had transformed areas of inner-city dereliction.

For the idea to spread, greater publicity was needed, and more ways had to be found of providing practical help in financing community projects, he said. He was particularly pleased to learn that Business in the Community, which organised the awards, had recently launched a £3 million investment fund to provide loans for new industries, supported by several large companies including NatWest bank, Marks and Spencer and United Biscuits.

Entrepreneurs needed partners to help them to achieve their vision, especially business partners. "By bringing business into these partnerships great things are going to be achieved for young people," he said. "That is good for individuals, good for communities and good for all our futures as a whole."

The awards are sponsored by *The Times* and the accountants Touche Ross. The top award, named after the late Charles Douglas-Home, former Editor of *The Times*, was presented to Bernard Melvin, chairman of the Miles Platting Community Assembly, from central Manchester, which runs a charitable trust, two new businesses, ten social projects and employment schemes.

C4 teaches Dorrell a lesson with six of the best

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

CHANNEL 4 has presented Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, with videos of six of its biggest box-office hits, a week after the minister said he could not remember his last visit to the cinema.

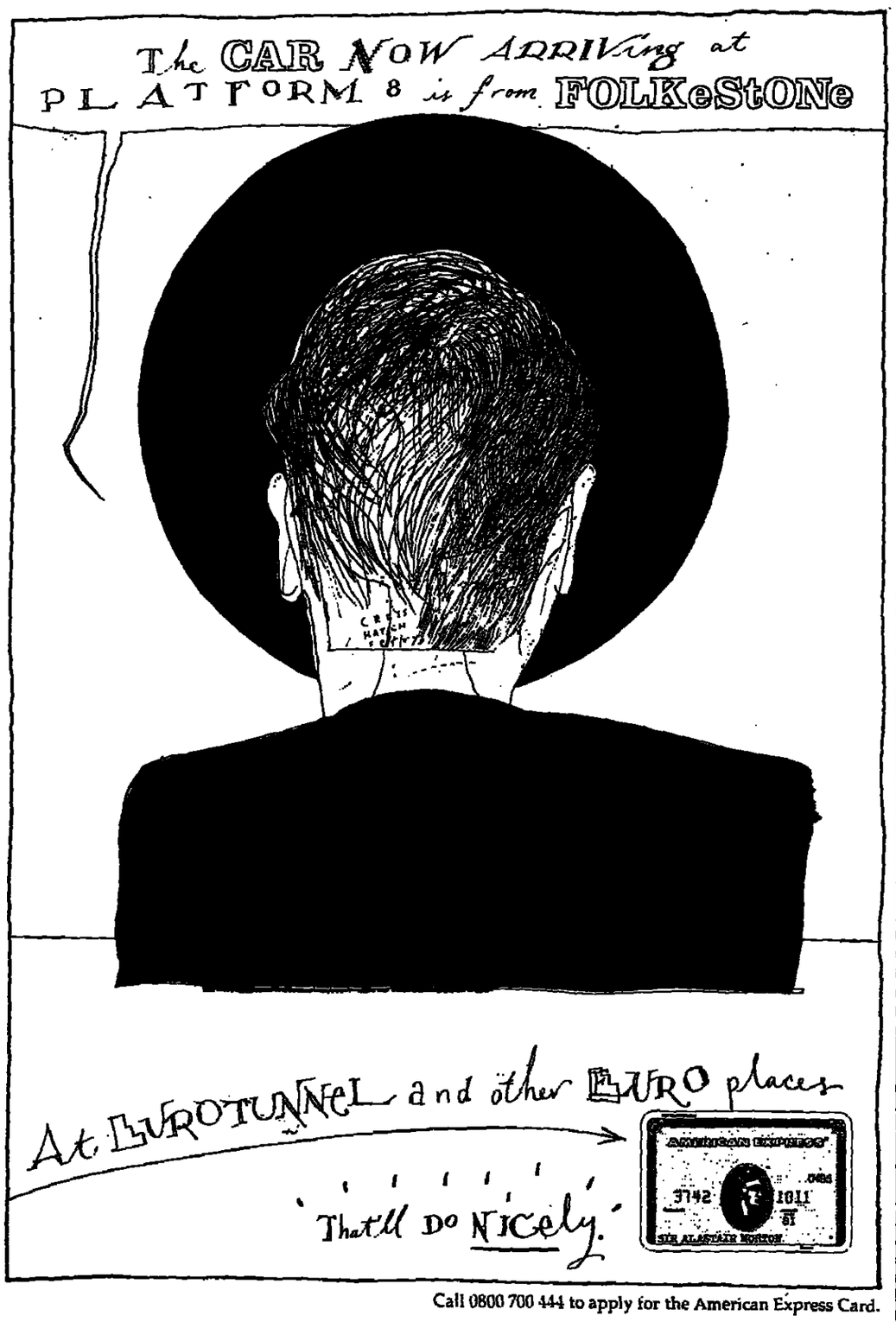
Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said he hoped that by watching the Channel 4-funded films, including *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the forthcoming release *The Madness of King George*, Mr Dorrell, who has responsibility for film, could be persuaded to scrap broadcasting regulations that oblige the station to pay an annual levy worth millions of pounds to ITV.

Mr Grade said that if Channel 4 were allowed to keep the money, it could double its film production to around 24 films a year or to make an extra 400 hours of new television programming. The investment would create 1,000 jobs. "I assume that Mr Dorrell does not watch television because he certainly does not go to the cinema or to the opera. I don't know if he has ever heard of these films, but we shall see," Mr Grade said.

His remarks follow the first official confirmation yesterday by the Independent Television Commission that the levy Channel 4 will have to pay ITV for 1994 — based on advertising revenue — is £57.3 million, an increase of 50 per cent on last year's payment of £38.2 million.

Rather than invest the money in new programmes, ITV companies, such as Central Television, were using it to top-up bonus payments to senior executives and dividends for shareholders, Mr Grade said. "ITV is on the biggest bonanza in history. They have a licence to take money from Channel 4 — it's Alice in Wonderland accounting," he added.

Mr Dorrell has already stated that he is not prepared to reconsider the levy on Channel 4 until the 1990 Broadcasting Act comes up for review in 1997. "I'm sure he will enjoy watching the films though," a department spokesman added.



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New test for Gulf War veterans

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GULF War veterans who claim to be suffering a debilitating disease after being given injections to counter anthrax and plague are to have their cases assessed by the Royal College of Physicians. Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, announced yesterday that the Royal College would carry out an independent clinical audit.

After medical examinations of 78 of the 233 people referred so far to the Ministry of Defence, Mr Soames said there was no scientific or medical evidence to show that the veterans were suffering from "Gulf War syndrome".

Wing Commander Bill Coker, the physician who has examined the veterans, told the Commons Defence Committee last week that he had found nothing that might link their illnesses to vaccines given to soldiers facing the threat of chemical and biological warfare attacks.

However, with 500 Gulf War veterans now claiming to be suffering from swollen joints, memory loss and dizziness, the MoD wants an independent assessment. An MoD source said: "The veterans seem to be under the impression that the ministry is involved in some sort of cover-up. We hope that by offering an independent assessment they will be reassured that everything is being done."

Mr Soames also announced that when the first 100 cases had been examined by Wg Cdr Coker, his preliminary findings would be sent to the *British Medical Journal* for publication. In a Commons written answer, Mr Soames urged Gulf War veterans concerned about their health to come forward.

Last night Vivien Lane, an RAF doctor who served in the Gulf and is a member of the Gulf Veterans Association, said the announcement was "a step forward".



Soames: wants doctor's findings published

Assaulted teacher awarded £160,000

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A TEACHER has been awarded almost £160,000 compensation for injuries and trauma caused in an assault by a teenage pupil. The size of the award reflects the premature ending by 12 years of the teacher's career because of the effects of the attack.

It is unlikely to be matched in future because of changes in the way compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is calculated. Projected losses of earnings are no longer taken into account.

The incident happened four years ago when the master, now 52, went to the aid of a woman colleague who was being assaulted by a teenager in her class at a young offenders' institute on Tyneside. The mathematics teacher, who has not been named, was injured when the pupil turned on him during the scuffle.

Gerry Bartlett, legal officer for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "He's a very angry, bitter man. He was walking along the corridor when he saw a 16-year-old male physically and verbally harassing a female colleague and he intervened to prevent injury being caused. During that intervention his arm was very severely injured, requiring surgery and he lost the use of it. There was also a degree of post-traumatic stress which made it very difficult for him to return to the classroom."

Mr Bartlett said the size of the award reflected the injury, the stress he had been put through and the difference between his pension for retiring at 48 and what it would have been if he had stayed teaching until he was 60. "I think it was quite the worst case we have ever dealt with. It was a very important case for us, but it was outrageous that it took so long to come to a conclusion."

Tony Coleman, regional organiser for the association, who presented the case, said: "While money can never compensate him for the loss of his career, the award obtained for him by the union will supplement his ill-health retirement pension and help maintain his standard of living."

The teacher involved, who is understood to be married with a family, had been in the profession for 24 years. He was employed by the local education authority, although the institution where he was working was run by social services.

Tenants fail Chuzzlewit house test

THE National Trust has been forced to re-advertise the £6,000-a-year tenancy of a house used in the television series *Martin Chuzzlewit*. More than 100 people wanting to live in the spacious Georgian townhouse have been rejected as unsuitable.

The six-bedroom Peckover House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was first advertised in November. Glyn Jones, the trust's property manager, said: "None of the applicants was suitable. They just didn't want to live in a way which we felt was in keeping with the house.

"Some of them were DIY enthusiasts, for instance. We didn't like the idea of them putting up new wallpaper when we weren't looking. The house has to be lived in sympathetically. The ideal tenant will be someone who will use the house as their principal home rather than a weekend retreat and maybe become involved in its running."

There is one possible drawback for those who value their privacy: following its exposure on television, up to 15,000 tourists are expected to visit the house on Wednesdays and Sundays between April and October. However, visitors will not be allowed to troop through the tenants' bedrooms. They will be confined to the gardens and six public rooms.

Mr Jones said: "We need someone who will bring life to the place. It was originally a family home and that is what we would like it to be again."

When the property came onto the market three years ago, the trust received about 600 applications from would-be tenants and is bracing itself for another flood. "The more the better as it gives us more to choose from," Mr Jones said. "Obviously when we find new tenants they will be encouraged to treat the house with a great deal of respect. Historically it is a very important building and one of only two Grade I listed buildings in the town."

The house was built overlooking the River Nene for the Peckover family in 1722. The façade and three rooms were used in the BBC adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel last year. The house was also used in the early 1980s during the filming of *Vanity Fair*.

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Gym photos deal keeps Princess out of court

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND ANDREW PIERCE

IT WAS the prospect of Bryce Taylor, the owner of the gymnasium where the Princess of Wales was secretly photographed at her exercises, setting foot on British soil that sealed the fate of what promised to be the most publicised High Court hearing for decades.

From the moment in 1993 that the Princess decided to pursue Mr Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers through the courts for publishing pictures that she regarded as being a gross invasion of her privacy, there was never any serious doubt that the matter would be settled out of court. But the hearing, which was scheduled to open next Monday, with the prospect of the Princess taking the witness stand in the full glare of publicity, had come perilously close.

Mr Taylor had booked a flight from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, which would have delivered him to Heathrow at 6.55 am today. Max Clifford, his publicist, would have staged an impromptu press conference at which his client would have declared his relish for the fight with the Princess in the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, central London. He would have upstaged the Princess, who is due to arrive at the same terminal later today from her visit to Japan.

Lawyers representing the Princess, Mr Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers have been in negotiation for months, and have been on the verge of a settlement on at least two occasions. The first sign that the discussions had been injected with a note of urgency came on Monday, when a scheduled application by Mirror Group Newspapers in the Court of Appeal was suddenly withdrawn.

The newspaper group was understood to be seeking leave to have the action against itself and Mr Taylor split into two distinct cases, with a view to having the Taylor case heard first to draw the obloquy and uncomfortable questioning.

By that time Mirror Group Newspaper's in-house lawyers and Mishcon de Reya, the legal firm representing the Princess and headed by Lord Mishcon, realised that if there was to be an out-of-court settlement, which both sides clearly desired, a deal would have to be struck before Mr Taylor arrived to raise the stakes.

A sticking point, which had been the fly in the ointment on previous occasions when settlement was close, was the exact wording of an apology that the *Daily Mirror* would carry.

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, took overall charge of his camp; at Mishcon de Reya the deal was hammered out by Anthony Julius, a senior litigation partner with the firm, assisted by fellow partner Karen Sanig.

After hours of negotiation all parties met in Mr Julius's office on Tuesday evening for another two hours of dotting I's and crossing T's. Shortly before midnight they broke up to telephone their respective clients; Mr Julius contacted the Princess in Tokyo, where it was 8am and she was preparing for the last day of her Japanese visit.

She indicated her agreement, in time for the *Daily Mirror* to carry its apology in its later editions, and for an announcement to be sent to other national newspapers shortly before 2am. Yesterday all parties were able to keep a previously arranged appointment with a judge in chambers to finalise the terms of the settlement.

Despite her affirmation that she was more than happy to enter the witness box to defend the privacy of herself and her sons, there was little relish in the Princess's camp at the prospect of her being cross-examined by Geoffrey Robertson, QC, a barrister known for his skill at appealing to juries.

The other leading counsel who would have made or lost reputations in the case, Andrew Caldecott, QC for the Princess and David Keay for Mirror Group Newspapers, are known for a more cerebral approach.

The settlement appears to be reasonably satisfactory to all parties. The Princess has unquestionably won her point, and, although there is no personal gain for her, the legal fees — about £700,000 — will be borne by the defendants, and the estimated £300,000 earned by the offending pictures and frozen by the court while the case proceeded will go to a charity of her choice.

Mirror Group Newspapers has got off relatively lightly, escaping the punitive damages that might have been awarded against it by a jury sympathetic to the Princess. Shortly after the *Daily Mirror* published the pictures in 1993 it appeared to realise that it had made an error of judgement, publishing a full apology to the Princess and enduring criticism from other newspapers, which feared that the episode would hasten legal constraints on privacy against the press.

Many lawyers felt that the Princess was on shaky ground bringing a civil action for breach of contract, breach of confidence and breach of fiduciary duty, areas of the law which are somewhat untested. But Mirror Group Newspapers knew that, even if it had won the court case battle, it would have lost the war: to win a case against the Princess in open court would have won it few friends.

The position of Mr Taylor, who won legal aid and would therefore have fought the case at the expense of the British taxpayer, is less clear. He told reporters yesterday that he was "very happy" about the settlement. He is doubtless equally happy that he has not been bankrupted by a case that could so easily have gone against him.

Protocol first, page 1



Lord Mishcon yesterday: a realist about a deal



GEOFF DALE

Bryce Taylor speaking to journalists from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday after settlement of the case was announced





The men who would have been opposing counsel: Geoffrey Robertson, left, and Andrew Caldecott

Alzheimer's mouse may hold clue to cure

BY NIGEL HAWKES

A MOUSE that develops the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease has been created by genetic engineering. The mouse should provide a huge boost to Alzheimer's research by providing a model in which potential therapies can be tested.

The mouse was made by inserting a human gene found in families that are especially prone to Alzheimer's. The gene is responsible for making a protein called amyloid precursor protein, or APP.

The genetically-engineered mouse, reported in *Nature*, has been produced by a team led by Dr Ivan Lieberburg of Athena Neurosciences, in San Francisco, California.

In patients with Alzheimer's, the protein is present in the brain in the form of "plaques", damaged regions of brain lying between the brain cells. But studying the disease has been difficult until now because animals seldom suffer similar damage, so there has been no test-bed for measuring the effects of different treatments.

Contractor denies £25m swindle

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE managing director of a construction company secretly included the cost of building a swimming pool for race horses and a shooting range at his home in the price of a new bypass, a court was told yesterday.

The contract for Anthony Budge's firm to construct a road around Newark in Nottinghamshire involved a £25 million swindle, it was claimed.

Mr Budge, 55, his wife Janet and another director are accused by the Department of Trade and Industry of milking their company, A.F. Budge Ltd, of the money, which was spent on a variety of "hobbies". These included a fruitless search for sunken treasure in the Caribbean, a £2 million private yacht, military equipment — including a Scud missile — and helping their daughters' businesses, Leeds County Court was told.

A.F. Budge, the holding company, collapsed in 1992 with debts of £96.6 million. At the hearing, Mr Budge's brother Richard, whose company RJB Mining has just bought most of England's coal fields from the Government, was accused of involvement. He was a director of A.F. Budge until ten months before the receivers were called in. He has denied any impropriety.

The Official Receiver and the DTI are seeking an order under the Companies Act banning Mr Budge and his wife, of Osberton Hall, Worksop, and Michael Yates, a fellow director, of Sutton, Retford, both Nottinghamshire, from holding a directorship for the next seven years. The three deny all the allegations.

Mark Cawson, counsel for the Receiver, said the money was hived off to "hobby companies" and the interest-free loans led to the company's demise. The case was adjourned for the respondents to call witnesses.

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Bottomley tests judges' power to order her to court

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY will tomorrow try to put a stop to increasing demands from magistrates and Crown Court judges for her to appear in court to explain the shortage of secure mental health beds for dangerous offenders.

The Health Secretary is to send a barrister to West Sussex to appear on her behalf before Judge Thorpe, who last week ordered her attendance after no secure bed could be found for a woman described as a potential killer. The barrister will argue that there should be no requirement for a serving secretary of state to appear in person and will ask the judge to withdraw the witness summons.

The woman, Sharon Towes, 24, of Crawley, West Sussex, is being held at Holloway prison, a situation Judge Thorpe described at Chichester as "quite unacceptable". She made her seventh court appearance last week since being arrested last April after stabbing Henry O'Rawe, a council worker. She admitted malicious wounding. A hospital bed was found for her this week, but a Health Department spokesman said she was awaiting transfer until the court reconvened to hear her case tomorrow.


Bottomley: sending a barrister in her place

The Towes case is the fourth in recent months in which the Health Secretary has been called to attend the courts and is a sign of the growing frustration among judges at the lack of provision for mentally disordered offenders. Last week, magistrates in Worthing, West Sussex, requested Mrs Bottomley's attendance when a bed could not be found for Mark Dwan, a mentally ill man known to be a suicide risk.

The Health Department spokesman said that Dwan was refusing to be assessed by psychiatrists, which made it impossible for them to tell whether he was suitable for treatment.

On Wednesday, at her request, Mrs Bottomley met Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to seek his advice after the Health Department and the Lord Chancellor's department appeared to differ over whether the Secretary of State could be required to attend court.

The Health Department said that under the Mental Health Act, 1980, a representative of the regional health authority or a government lawyer could appear on her behalf. The Lord Chancellor's department said that under the Criminal Procedure (Attendance of Witnesses) Act, 1975, she could be summoned to appear in person.

The spokesman said yesterday: "We are sending a legal representative to appear before Judge Thorpe to find out whether judges have the power to require the Secretary of State to attend court. Every time one of these cases happens, Virginia Bottomley is called to attend. We want to sort it out."

Last September, ministers pledged £4.4 million to provide extra medium secure beds for mental patients after a series of reports highlighted the pressure on mental hospitals.

John Bowis, the junior Health Minister, said yesterday that until 1979 there were no medium secure beds and mentally disordered offenders were automatically sent to prison.

He added: "It is only through the Government's sustained investment in this area that courts now have the ability to refer mentally disordered offenders to the medium secure hospital system."

Reforms urged to intoxication law

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

REFORMS to clarify the law on when intoxication can be a defence to crime are called for by the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, today. The present law, which allows an intoxication defence in some crimes but not others, is confusing and obscure, the Commission says.

The law allows the defence in crimes such as murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent, but not in manslaughter, actual bodily harm and rape. The Commission recommends that if the prosecution claims a defendant intended to cause a particular result, he can rely on intoxication as evidence that he had no such intention. However, where the prosecution alleges that he realised there was a risk that a particular result would occur, intoxication would be no defence. This would not apply where the defendant did not realise he was taking a drug or alcohol, was forced to take it or took it on medical advice.

The Commission says: "These rules are broadly similar to the existing law, but anomalies and inconsistencies would be eliminated. The law would also be clearer and easier to find, because it would be statutory form. It proposes a draft bill to be incorporated into its proposed code for the criminal law for England and Wales.

☐ *Legislating the Criminal Code: Intoxication and Criminal Liability (Law commission report no.229)*


Barry Greenwood

Canon Barry Thomas outside his church in Caernarvon. He leaves today to become a chaplain in Monaco



Welsh rector leaves for place in the sun

A RECTOR from Caernarvon will leave behind the grey skies of North Wales today and head for the sunshine as Anglican chaplain of Monaco. Canon Barry Thomas is taking up a three-year contract at the duck-egg blue clifftop church of St Paul's, on the Avenue de Grande Bretagne.

He and his wife, Delyth, will live in an apartment beneath the church, which is renowned for its library, founded by Baroness Orczy, author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. The parish, in the diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, contains about 100 Britons. The congregation will pay his stipend.

"The Anglican church in Monaco is there for a specific purpose," he said. "English-speaking people identify with it, whether they are churchgoers or not, because it is a base where they can meet and talk in English."

Lifeboatmen barred for indiscipline

By Dominic Kennedy

THREE lifeboatmen who launched a rescue boat against orders have been suspended from duty. The volunteers set out in a gale to help seven men on a stricken barge. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution took the unusual action of suspending the men for indiscipline.

The volunteers were eager to join a rescue on New Year's Day when a crane-carrying barge broke its moorings and became stuck on a coastal protection reef off the Norfolk coast at Sea Palling. The Great Yarmouth coastguard scrambled a helicopter from RAF Wattisham and asked the lifeboat station at Gorleston to launch its all-weather boat to stand by while the men were winched to safety.

The 45ft covered vessel was launched with a crew of five. Neal Duffield, honorary secretary, said yesterday: "Members of the crew who were at the station asked whether the inshore lifeboat could be launched. With the weather conditions prevailing, which was 55 knots of wind, snow storms and a very rough sea, I refused to have the boat launched." Mr Duffield said that the inshore boat should not be launched in winds rougher than force seven, which is a near-gale. The weather conditions were force nine.

The three men launched the open-topped boat but were quickly recalled by radio and returned to shore. The stranded bargemen were winched to safety by the helicopter. After a disciplinary inquiry, the helmsman was suspended for six months and the two crew for three months each.

Mr Duffield said: "I assume they were acting from over-keenness and this is not the sort of thing we want to happen. I have to protect the crew members."

Winter birthday makes scientists more radical

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

YOUR date of birth may influence your willingness to embrace new ideas, a study of eminent scientists has shown. Those born in the winter are more ready to accept radical theories, while those born in the summer are more inclined to oppose them, says Dr Michael Holmes, a psychologist from Queen Margaret College in Edinburgh.

He stumbled across the relationship by accident when studying the rapid acceptance among physicists of Einstein's theories of relativity. At the time, an alternative explanation for the same observations existed, propounded by the Dutch physicist Hendrik Lorentz. Dr Holmes tried to identify characteristics that determined why some supported Einstein and some Lorentz. "I wasn't looking for birth dates at all, but they emerged."

Comparing ten eminent supporters with nine opponents, he found that all ten relativists were born between October and April, compared with only two opponents. He later made the same comparisons among biologists who either supported or opposed Darwin's theory of evolution. Eleven of 12 evolutionists were born between October and April, but only five of 16 anti-evolutionists.

Aggregating both results, he writes in *Nature*, December to April houses 82 per cent of the proponents' birth dates, but only 24 per cent of the antagonists. May to July accounts for none of the protagonists but 60 per cent of the antagonists.

Does this mean the astrologers are right? "I'm not driven to astrological explanations," Dr Holmes says. "I think environmental and climatic factors may explain it."

Influences early in childhood may have different effects depending on when they are experienced. Summer and winter also offer different diets, and light-induced hormone fluctuations. "This may not be true today," Dr Holmes says. "All the people I studied were born before electric light, central heating, and year-round availability of different foods."


Darwin: his supporters were born in the winter

News

Drunken station master sentenced

A station master who was found to be drunk while in charge of Glasgow Central Station was sentenced to 150 hours' community service by Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday. British Transport Police tested Paul Cook, 33, and discovered he had consumed almost double the alcohol limit for people controlling the movement of trains, which is less than the limit for motorists. The duty officer being relieved told the court he could not poosibly allow Cook to take charge of the station.

Retrial verdict

A Jamaican jailed for life in August 1993 has been cleared after a retrial at the Old Bailey. Leroy Lesley, 26, was acquitted of killing one man and wounding two others. Relatives said he planned to return to Jamaica.

Tidy driver killed

A man was killed as he tried to retrieve debris on the M40 in Oxfordshire to make the road safer. Dr Anthony Jackson, 50, a psychologist at a Bedfordshire business school, had got out to pick up the debris that his BMW had hit.

Driver jailed

Brett Harris, 20, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, who drove at a motorist after a crash and carried on at high speed with the man clinging to his windscreen wipers, was jailed for three years and three months yesterday.

Mayor charged

Rhys Wynn Lewis, 54, Mayor of Aberaeron, Dyfed, is to appear before Carmarthen magistrates on March 13 charged with falsely claiming expenses for duties performed as a member of Dyfed County Council.

Father killed son

A man was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for the "horrendous" murder of his 11-week-old son. Christopher Dearlove, 26, of Bexleyheath, southeast London, claimed he had accidentally dropped Michael, injuring his head.

Whale award

Whale Watch, a Maori-run tour group based in Kaikoura on New Zealand's South Island, has beaten 120 entries to win the global environment prize in the 1994 British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards. Travel, pages 22-23

Alarm theft

Thieves set off a fire alarm at Carlisle Civic Centre and stole £5,000 cash while the building was evacuated. The thieves had been hiding in a roof void before the alarm went off and returned there until it was safe to leave.

Cathedral cru

York Minster is to sell wine with its own label depicting the West Front. Ian Martin, banqueting manager at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, helped to choose the St Emilion Grand Cru, which will cost £10 from the gift shop.



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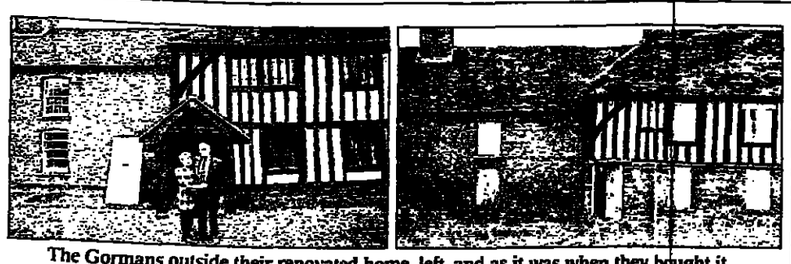
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Gorman alleges 'deliberate targeting by the socialist council of my husband and I for prosecution'



The Gormans outside their renovated home, left, and as it was when they bought it

MP opens home to deny ruining listed Tudor farm

By Michael Horsnell

TERESA GORMAN, one of the Tory MPs who has lost the whip, yesterday threw open the new oak front door to the £300,000 Tudor farmhouse she has been accused of vandalising to tell her side of the story.

Mrs Gorman invited the media to inspect Old Hall Farm, in Orsett, Essex, where she has exposed beams and fireplaces and changed walls, staircases and windows. The restoration, which cost the Gormans £170,000, has led to 66 summonses for alleged breaches of planning regulations.

Mrs Gorman, 63, alleges that planners on the Labour-controlled Thurrock Council have mounted a vendetta against her for political purposes.

The Grade II listed building was derelict until Mrs Gorman bought it at auction in 1992 for £130,000. But the restoration of the property, which was extended in the 17th and 19th centuries, was carried out without planning consent, and the council claims that she has turned it in to a "pseudo-medieval" pile and wants her to restore it to its previous condition.

The MP for Billericay showed reporters around the four-bedroom house, pointing out everything from the scullery to the new porch. The refurbishment includes an inglenook where an old Raeburn heater stood, replacement mullion windows and limed oak doors.

Lawyers for Mrs Gorman and her husband Jim, 71, who could be jailed for six months or fined £660,000, yesterday threatened to fight back by applying to the Environment Secretary for retrospective planning consent before the case comes to court.

Last night Mrs Gorman was picketing a meeting of the authority at which the recommendation of its planning committee to prosecute was expected to be adopted. She said: "None of this would have happened if we were just a couple of chartered accountants. It's purely a vendetta by the local authority because of who I am. The dispute has been manipulated for political purposes. I am not only annoyed but very upset."

Mrs Gorman said that at no stage had Paul Shelley, the chief planning officer who has accused her of "history replacement therapy", sought to reach a negotiated settlement. Shortly before and after buying the house, the couple met Mr Shelley at the site with a builder to discuss its preservation after a century of neglect. She said: "It had been completely empty for several years, vandalised and declared uninhabitable. It was obvious that any restoration works would inevitably cause some disturbance to the fabric. Mr Shelley made no mention of any need for applications under planning control or listed building consent."

The MP said that no council official had visited even though they had been free to inspect the building works or issue a "stop notice" during the past two years and that it was only after the work was finished and the council was notified that the couple planned to occupy the house that a conservation officer called.

Mrs Gorman claimed that the council had fed information to *Private Eye* and to newspapers and refused to discuss the reason behind much of the restoration work.

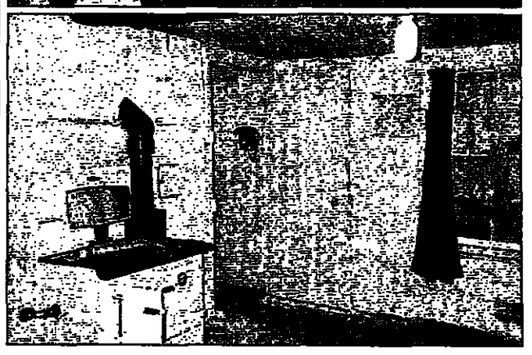
Mrs Gorman said: "This can point to only one object. The deliberate targeting by the socialist council of my husband and I for public prosecution. Instead of giving fair and reasonable consideration of the work that we have carried out, at great expense to ourselves, the council has chosen to launch this vindictive, malicious and unnecessary prosecution. This is our home and Jim cannot see himself living anywhere else. We are being threatened with demolition of all that we have achieved."

SIMON WALKER









Top: the Gormans by their restored fireplace in Old Hall Farm, a Grade II listed building; bottom left, the fireplace in its original state; middle right, the kitchen as it is today, and bottom right, as it was when the couple bought the house

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The day the Allies broke through the Siegfried Line

ON FEBRUARY 9, 1945, troops of the Canadian First Army overran and captured six villages in an assault on the Siegfried Line.

Codenamed Operation Veritable, the attack had been launched the day before, with the intention that British and Canadian troops, advancing southeast from the Dutch city of Nijmegen, should link up with the American Ninth Army, advancing north-east in preparation for the crossing of the Rhine.

In the First World War, the Siegfried Line had been the name given by the Germans to their front line of trenches: to their opponents it was known as the Hindenburg Line in deference to the formidable field marshal. In the 1930s the name was adopted by Hitler, doubtless with the hero of Wagner's Ring in mind, to designate the string of pillboxes and other fortifications marking Germany's western frontier.

Since the triumph of the D-Day landings on the Normandy beaches in June 1944, the subsequent break-out from the beach-head and the liberation of Paris and Brussels, the Allied advance had

■ **In the first of an occasional series leading to the 50th anniversary of VE-Day in May, John Young describes the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany**



met with several setbacks. Operation Market Garden, which had been intended to shorten the war by capturing the bridges over the Maas, the Waal and the Rhine, and so open the road into Germany, had ended in near-disaster with the destruction of the British First Airborne Division at Arnhem in September.

Shortly before Christmas 19 German divisions under Field Marshal von Runstedt had launched a counter-offensive in the Ardennes region of Belgium, which became known as the Battle of the Bulge. It was not until January 12, after bitter fighting and heavy casualties on both sides, that the German advance was finally halted.

Von Runstedt had foreseen at an early stage that the offensive was unlikely to succeed, partly because of a shortage of fuel and other supplies and because reinforcements could not be guaranteed. He wanted to preserve what was left of the German army to defend the Reich, but was overruled by Hitler. He afterwards described it as "Stalingrad number two".

Meanwhile, on the eastern front Soviet troops had crossed the Oder and established a 50-mile bridgehead within Germany itself, while four American divisions had



On to Berlin: an Allied unit prepares to cross the Rhine. The end of the war in Europe was just three months away

also entered Germany from Luxembourg. But the British and Canadians were still stalled in and around Nijmegen, and their commander, Field Marshal Montgomery, was under pressure to take action. After heavy January rains much of the terrain was under water, a phenomenon repeated, in recent days, half a century later.

The push through the Siegfried Line on February 9 came after an overnight attack followed by a 1,000-gun bombardment linked to a second air strike. Under that pressure the German front edge quickly collapsed and the Canadians, followed by the British, crossed the flooded lowlands by amphibious trucks and pushed south.

They won a desperate hide-and-seek battle for the Reichswald, 50 square miles of close-growing evergreen firs on a hogsback between the Maas and Rhine rivers south of Nijmegen. The Reichswald was the last strong German defensive point in the area and its capture was particularly difficult. On February 11 the 43rd Division of Lieutenant-General Brian Horrocks's 30 Corps broke free of a snarl-up of tanks and lorries churning the rain-sodden roads and captured the town of Cleve.

Two weeks later Hitler proclaimed that the tide of war was about to turn in Germany's favour, but it was no more than a gesture of defiance. By then the Red Army had captured Budapest after a 50-day siege, which cost the Axis armies some 159,000 casualties.

The deliberate flooding of the Ruhr valley by the Germans had meanwhile delayed the American advance and it was March 3 before they finally linked up with the British at Geldern. But by February 26 the Americans were within ten miles of Cologne and were able to begin shelling the city. It was the beginning of the end.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Responding to pre-empts

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Look at the East-West combinations below:

I	♠3 ♥KQJ9876 ♦85 ♣1065	♠AK4 ♥2 ♦AQ1043 ♣KQ42
II	♠3 ♥KQJ9876 ♦85 ♣1065	♠AQ42 ♥— ♦AKQJ987 ♣K2

What contract would you like to be in on each of the layouts?

It is pretty clear that on I, the best contract is Four Hearts. Barring bad breaks, playing in hearts East-West are likely to make two spade tricks, six heart tricks, one diamond trick and one club trick. But if East were the declarer in 3NT he would not be able to make use of dummy's heart suit, and might well only make six or seven tricks. On East-West layout II, the best contract is undoubtedly 3NT played by East. If West plays in Four Hearts, he might easily lose three clubs and a heart.

So what has all this got to do with responding to pre-empts? It is that in the two layouts above, if West is the dealer he will open Three Hearts. On the first hand the correct bid for East is Four Hearts, because he can envisage how the play will go in that contract. He must not bid 3NT — as you can see, that will not play anything like as well.

You might say, well West can always bid Four Hearts over 3NT. But that is wrong — when West opens Three Hearts East knows the sort of hand to expect. So if East decides to bid 3NT West should respect that decision. That is why I have put in deal II — on that hand East should respond 3NT to West's Three Hearts opening, and West should pass — he has already described his hand.

It is true that the classical pre-empt as held by West is rare — somehow in practice the suit is less good or the pre-emptor will have one or two side cards which may be useful in 3NT.

But the principle still applies: (a) responder should consider how his hand will play opposite the classic type and bid accordingly; (b) the pre-emptor should respect his decision.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov the python

The style of Anatoly Karpov, world champion from 1975 to 1985 and the current reigning FIDE champion, has been likened to that of a python, inexorably squeezing the life out of his opponent. Boris Gelfand, his opponent in the FIDE matches in Sanghi Nagar, India, is a considerably more impetuous player. It is likely that once Karpov seizes Gelfand in his coils as in this game, that his young rival will be unable to escape. The following win is typical of Karpov's manoeuvring prowess.

White: Karpov
Black: Gelfand
Linares 1991

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nf3	Bg7
4	g3	0-0
5	Bg2	c6
6	Nc3	d5
7	cxd5	cxd5
8	Ne5	Bf5
9	0-0	Ne4
10	Be3	Nxc3
11	bxc3	Nc6
12	Qb3	e6
13	Nxc6	bxc6
14	Qa3	Re8
15	Bf4	e5
16	Bxe6	Bxe6
17	dxe5	Rxe5
18	e3	Be4
19	Rfd1	Qf8
20	Rd4	h5
21	h3	Rb8
22	Rad1	Bxg2
23	Kxg2	Qe7
24	Qxe7	Rxe7
25	R1d2	Rb6
26	c4	dxc4
27	Rxc4	Kg7
28	Rdc2	Rc7
29	g4	hxg4
30	hxg4	Kf6
31	Kg3	Ke6
32	a4	Kd7
33	g5	Ra6
34	Rd4+	Ke8
35	Rc5	Rb6
36	Kf4	Rd7
37	Rxd7	Kxd7
38	Ke5	Ke7
39	f4	Rb4
40	Ra5	Rb7
41	e4	Rc7
42	Rc5	Rc8
43	Rc3	Re8
44	Rc4	Rc8
45	Rb4	Rc7
46	a5	Kd7
47	Rb3	Ke7
48	a6	Kd7
49	Kf6	Kc8
50	Rh3	Rd7
51	f5	gxf5
52	exf5	c5
53	Rc3	Rc7
54	g6	fxg6
55	fxg6	Kd7
56	g7	Rc8
57	Rg3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



The adjourned game ended in a win for Kamsky. Salov resigned on move 70.

☐ In the adjourned first game of the semi-final match between Gata Kamsky and Valery Salov, Kamsky forced a victory after 70 moves in Wednesday's second session. Kamsky had adjourned with the advantage of a queen against Salov's rook and two pawns. Salov, however, hoped to force a draw but within a mere nine moves Kamsky breached Salov's defences to force the win. Kamsky now leads by 1½ points to a half.

Winning Move, page 48

We can do without single currency, say businessmen

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ALICE THOMSON

LEADING businessmen will fuel the political row over Europe today by suggesting that a single market can still operate effectively without a single currency.

In a further sign that the business community is split over the benefits of European monetary union, a number of business leaders have written to *The Times* suggesting that a single currency is "not indispensable to expanding exports".

The Confederation of British Industry generally supports a single currency although the Institute of Directors opposes it. The authors of the letter, who include Lord Hanson, Owen Green, former chairman of the conglomerate BTR, and Tim Melville-Ross, director general of the Institute of Directors, criticised politicians who argued the case for monetary union by claiming that it has widespread support from the business community.

Businessmen and politicians are eagerly awaiting a speech by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, tonight in which he is expected to spell out criteria for joining a single currency beyond those laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

Downing Street was said to be taking a keen interest in Mr Clarke's speech yesterday with several drafts being sent between Number 10 and the Treasury. It is understood that John Major was keen to harden the text and include more about specific conditions that Britain would demand. The Prime Minister has already said that the criteria would include the relative flexibility of employment markets.

Last night Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the whipless rebels, also tried to fan the flames by suggesting that monetary union "would prove to be a costly nonsense securing nothing apart from gigantic subsidy and total inflexibility". In a speech to the Cambridge Union Conservative Association, Sir Teddy suggested that British officials were already working towards a single currency even though this had not been agreed by the government.

Last night Mr Major was trying to reassure constituency party chairmen that he would hold the party together over Europe as part of a new charm offensive to win over party activists. In the first of a series of meetings, Mr Major entertained 150 constituency chairmen and their wives at a Downing Street reception.

Party sources insisted that Mr Major would not be making a political speech but would take the opportunity to thank those attending for all their hard work. Over the next few months he hopes to see as many of the 650 chairmen as possible.

Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats challenged John Major to end Britain's opt-out from the single currency, warning that Britain faced a bleak economic future it it was left out of EMU. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that he would make "every effort" to engineer a government defeat in the Commons next Monday when the Liberals will use a rare parliamentary debate slot to put forward a motion backing the principle of a referendum on closer EU ties.

Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, said that Britain faced a "nightmare of decline, marginalisation and eventual economic ruin" if it opted out of the single currency. "Our economy is now entirely geared towards our relationship with the European Union, the development of a single market, and the logical conclusion of it, which is a single currency," he said.

Mr Ashdown was hoping to attract Labour, the Unionists and the whipless Tories into humiliating the Government on Monday, but at a Shadow Cabinet meeting last night Labour decided to issue only a one-line whip and to field a junior spokesman for the debate.

A Labour spokesman said: "We accept that further substantial change regarding constitutional matters or the issue of a single currency require popular consent either by a referendum or a general election. But we have no intention of saying what is the best approach before we know the timing or the content."

Letters, page 19

Shephard backed to succeed Hurd

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR Tory MPs and ministers are pressing the claims of Gillian Shephard to become Britain's first woman Foreign Secretary if Douglas Hurd decides to give up the post in the next 18 months.

They are arguing that the Education Secretary's reputation as a "constructive Euro-sceptic" would make her an ideal choice for the job in a Cabinet where the traditional strongly pro-European balance is gradually shifting.

Mrs Shephard's closest supporters are presenting her sceptic credentials as being more convincing than those of other front-runners. But they believe that her position as one of the Prime Minister's closest and most loyal allies means that he will give serious consideration to appointing her when the time comes.

It is argued that any Prime Minister needs to feel comfortable with his Foreign Secretary, as Mr Major clearly does with Mr Hurd, and Margaret Thatcher eventually did not with Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Shephard is known to be a strong supporter of the more Euro-sceptic line taken by Mr Major since the turn of the year. She has made a swift rise through the ministerial ranks since entering Parliament in 1987. After joining the Cabinet as Employment Secretary in 1992 she soon became Agriculture Minsiter, a job that involved continual negotiation with Brussels and provided experience that would serve her well at the Foreign Office.

She becomes the latest in a long list of suggested successors to Mr Hurd. Although many MPs and ministers believe that he will go this summer, he has clearly indicated that he is in no hurry. Mr Major would like him to stay until next year's conference on the future of the European Union.

The other leading candidates for the post are Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Mr Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary. Jonathan Aitken, the strongly sceptical Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is also being pushed.

Well-placed Euro-sceptic ministers say that Mr Rifkind, Sir Patrick and, surprisingly, Mr Lang are too pro-European for the present climate within the party. But they say that Mr Aitken represents the opposite extreme and would not be acceptable to much of the parliamentary party.

Mrs Shephard's chances will depend on her performance in the education hot seat, where faces the imminent threat of classroom disruption after the Government's refusal to find more money to fund the teachers' pay award.



Selection for NHS trust jobs attacked

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT appointments in the NHS are based on "subjective judgment, personal whim and political patronage," the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life has been told.

Yesterday the committee, examining the system of appointments made by or on behalf of the Health Secretary to the 600 NHS bodies, said that it had received more submissions on the issue than any other.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, which represents most NHS management bodies, told the inquiry that the proposals announced by the Government this week for greater openness in public appointments did not go far enough. Chris Robinson, representing the NAHAT, said that there was "anecdotal evidence that the selection process is not as wide as one would expect".

The committee has received written evidence from a senior member of an NHS trust claiming that the appointments procedure is "highly idiosyncratic". The evidence goes on to claim that "subjective judgment, personal whim and political patronage all play a part". Mr Robinson said that he gave a qualified assent to that view.

At present, the Health Secretary directly or indirectly controls 3,000 appointments to NHS bodies. About 93 per cent of those posts carry some form of remuneration. The appointments have attracted strong accusations from Labour that NHS trusts are being packed with Tory placemen. One of the more controversial was the appointment of lady Parkinson, wife of the former Cabinet minister Lord Parkinson, to chair a health trust in Barnet.

The Confederation of British Industry said in evidence to the Nolan committee, published yesterday, that there should be "waiting periods for all those who have served within government who then seek work outside". David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, told the committee on Tuesday that the government was utterly opposed to any such restriction.

Council tax appeals take 'too long'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MPs are demanding steps to speed up the hundreds of thousands of appeals against errors in assessing council tax bandings.

Up to two million assessments are estimated to be wrong and MPs on the Commons Public Accounts Committee have voiced concern in a report that some of the appeals will take more than two years to be resolved. The committee is calling for extra staffing to deal with a backlog of 167,000 cases.

The National Audit Office has said occupants of up to 900,000 properties in England and Wales may be paying too much because their homes were overvalued. A further 1.1 million may be paying too little.

Tunnel rail link blight condemned

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE ombudsman has sharply criticised the Government for blighting the lives of hundreds of Kent households with lengthy delays in setting the route of the Channel Tunnel rail link.

In a highly unusual reponse, however, the Transport Department has rejected the findings of the report and refused to offer compensation.

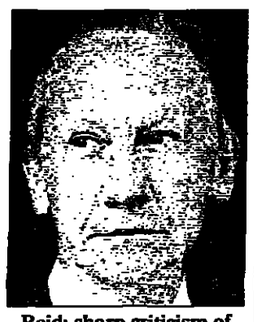
William Reid, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, condemned the four-year delay as "unquestionable maladministration". House-owners along the possible routes found that their properties were virtually unsaleable between 1990 and 1994, when the Government announced its decision.

Mr Reid said in his report: "The effect of the Department of Transport's policy was to put the project in limbo, keeping it alive when it could not be funded." He said the department "had a responsibility to consider the position of such persons suffering exceptional or extreme hardship and to provide redress where appropriate. They undertook no such considerations. That merits my criticism."

The inquiry was triggered by complaints from three Tory MPs, Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent) Sir Keith Speed (Ashford) and Sir John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling).

However, Sir Patrick Brown, the permanent secretary at the Transport Department, rejected its findings. In his formal response to the report, he denied that the project "was ever in limbo" and said that it had been pursued "with vigour".

He said it would have been impossible for practical and legal reasons to devise a hardship scheme for people affected by the delay. "It would be an extraordinary proposition that maladministration can arise simply because official or ministers failed to provide a remedy to an unremediable set of problems."



Reid: sharp criticism of Transport Department

Dispute delays MPs' inquiry

LABOUR MPs are calling for a government whip to be removed from the committee investigating allegations against the former minister Neil Hamilton (Arthur Leathley writes).

They want Andrew Mitchell to be taken off the Members' Interests Select Committee because of his opposition to the inquiry taking oral evidence. The dispute over his membership came to a head this week when a committee hearing was suspended after Dale Campbell-Savours, a Labour MP, sat in on the private proceedings and refused to leave. It is unusual for a minister to serve on a select committee but the Tories say that Labour did not object when Mr Mitchell was appointed.

Mr Campbell-Savours's unexpected protest delayed a decision being taken on whether to clear Mr Hamilton of breaching Commons rules by failing to declare a £4,000 six-day stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. MPs acknowledge that Mr Hamilton's visit in 1987 cannot be in breach of rules introduced subsequently, but some members believe that he should still be censured for failing to declare it. Future meetings may have to be suspended if Mr Campbell-Savours repeats his protest.

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Outdoor centres scheme welcomed

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCHEME for the compulsory licensing and inspection of Britain's 3,000 outdoor activity centres may be in place by April next year, MPs were told yesterday.

Education Department officials and representatives of the Activity Centres Advisory Committee told an education select committee that centres faced a "bureaucratic overload" and urgently needed a mandatory scheme to streamline safety standards.

The committee meeting follows the unopposed second reading of a private member's Bill by David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, in January. The Bill, which calls for the compulsory licensing and inspection of outdoor pursuits centres, was put forward after deaths of four teenagers at an activity centre in Lyme Regis in 1993.

Roger Putnam, chairman of the Council for Outdoor Education, Training and Recreation, said that the industry welcomed the idea of self-regulation and would like to see it implemented quickly. "It's been welcomed across the board. I have been in touch with many outdoor activity centres and providers and they all welcome it ... I would very much like to see something in place by 1996."

A statutory accreditation scheme would probably be governed by about 25 full-time inspectors, Mr Putnam said. "Every centre would need to be inspected within the first year of operation if the scheme is to have any credibility". After that, it is estimated that centres would require inspection about every three years.

Centres would pay a registration cost of about £500. Mr Putnam said: "A charge that was too big would mean that small operators would find it seriously hard to continue in business."

Richard Arrowsmith, chairman of the Scottish Council for Outdoor Education, Training and Recreation, said that some centres had experienced a "bureaucratic overload" over the past couple of years and now hoped for a streamlined scheme that would require only one inspection.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, MPs sat at 10am for backbench debates starting with the Sale of British Coal Bill. At 2.30pm questions to trade and industry ministers were followed by debates on Welsh revenue support grant reports and Children (Northern Ireland) orders. The Lords debated inner-city problems, transport infrastructure policy, the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation Bill and the Scottish rateable values orders.

TOMORROW: In the Commons, questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate on the White Paper on the future of the BBC. The Lords will debate the Environment Bill and Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (General) Regulations.

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Factional tensions underly show of strength by People's Liberation Army

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE tension over the Spratly Islands highlights the way China uses military pressure to assert its claim to parts of what it sees as the lost territory of the old Chinese empire. It remains to be seen whether the armed forces will play a role in the succession struggle after the death of Deng Xiaoping.

The army is indistinguishable from the Communist Party structure. According to a recent Pentagon study, power in post-Deng China will be "up for grabs" with an even chance of national chaos. It is common inside and outside China to imagine a People's Liberation Army (PLA) which could split into factions, or line up behind one of several party competitors for supreme power. Peking ceaselessly calls on the forces to unite behind the leadership, to defend both China's borders and its inner stability.

Mr Deng is reported to have told a visiting statesman in 1990 that if there were turmoil in China a civil war would erupt with army factions on each side. During the Tiananmen uprising of 1989, two retired marshals and seven senior generals wrote to Mr Deng urging that no military violence be used against the demonstrators. Hundreds of army men in uniforms joined the demonstrators, entire columns of tanks and trucks refused to move against them and on the night of the killings, senior officers of the 38th Group refused to advance into the square. The commander was court-martialled and jailed. Mr Deng is known to have been forced to persuade rather than order regional military commanders — China is divided into seven military regions — to send units to Peking to crush the uprising.

The fact remains that the army is a part of the party. All its officers are members, soldiers make up more than 20 per cent of the Central Committee, and a senior commander, General Liu Huaqing sits on the ruling seven-member Politburo standing committee.

Most of the elderly party grandees who submerged their rivalries to unite with Mr Deng to subdue the Tiananmen uprising fought during the anti-Japanese struggle and the civil war and remain closely linked to the professional military. The army is intrinsic to every level of Chinese government, from local to national levels, in the media, universities, and in the rapidly burgeoning economy and within the military the party's control is represented by uniformed commanders as much as by civilian commissars.

If the army attacked the party, therefore, it would in every sense be attacking itself.

This does not mean that the army, as an identifiable subset of the party, does not have views. But these are shared by the party's most nationalistic and patriotic civilian elements. On supreme issues there is a unity of outlook and action: defence of the borders, crushing internal disorder, and ensuring party supremacy.

As a reward for standing firm during the Tiananmen demonstrations, the army receives substantial budget increases, most recently more than 20 per cent. Its true budget is a secret. The official 1993 figure is $7.3 billion (£4.64 billion), well behind Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. Most experts estimate the actual budget, much of it derived from economic activity, at between $27 and $53 billion. At the upper end this would put China just behind America in military spending. In addition to its legitimate civilian enterprises, the army's activities include setting up illegitimate businesses, smuggling, and providing labour services.

The Chinese Government does little or nothing about this corruption, according to Professor Ellis Joffe of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an expert on China. To do so, he suggests, "would probably cause a crisis unless PLA units were compensated by a huge increase of funds and these are not available."

Peking raises tensions over disputed islands

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

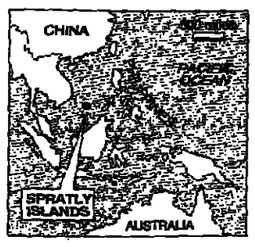
THE Philippines yesterday accused China of stationing vessels in a part of the Spratly Islands claimed by Manila.

In an apparent escalation of tension in the South China Sea archipelago of unmarked reefs, shoals, cays and isles that make up the Spratlys, the Philippines Government said that Peking had also detained fishermen in the islands, only one of which has an area exceeding 119.6 sq yards.

The Spratlys, named in 1867 by Britain after an obscure whaling captain, are a potential security threat in South East Asia.

The Malaysians are reportedly building a submarine base near the Spratlys and Singapore has increased its air strength in the area.

President Ramos of the Philippines said at a news conference that he had ordered Philippine forces to that part of the Spratlys — which the Philippines call Kalayaan, the Tagalog word for freedom — claimed by Manila, and that the Chinese Embassy had been advised of the Government's concern.



The Chinese say that the dispute over ownership of the islands, which they call the Nansha, should be put aside in favour of joint development of the area. China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and oil-rich Brunei lay claim to all or part of the barren chunks of coral that are believed to sit above large oil and gas reserves. For the past 14 years, the islands have been off limits to anyone but the naval forces that patrol the azure waters and the local fishermen who live on the reefs. All but Brunei have a military presence there.

The Chinese Government says that it owns all of the islands, even though they are 950 miles from the nearest point on the Chinese coast. The Foreign Ministry has said that: "Historical documents prove these islands belong to China." They are of particular strategic value in that 70 per cent of Japan's oil imports and other heavy shipping traffic passes through the nearby sea lanes.

China forcibly evicted the Vietnamese navy from the Paracels, to the north, in 1974, and from one of the Spratly reefs in 1988 in an action that sank two Vietnamese vessels and left 77 presumed dead.

Mr Ramos said that photographs from the Philippine Defence Department verified the presence of Chinese vessels that "looked like warships" and showed new structures apparently built on coral reefs.

"The Philippines view these actions taken by elements identified with the People's Republic of China as inconsistent with international law and the spirit and intent of the 1992 Manila Asean [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] declaration on the South China Sea, in which both the Philippines and the People's Republic of China are partners," he said.

Mr Ramos added that he had given orders for an existing Philippine garrison on a group of eight of the Spratly Islands to be strengthened.

Now that the Americans and the former Soviet Union no longer dispute the control of the sea lanes in the region, China has built up its forces. According to a recent estimate from Singapore's Institute of International Affairs, the Chinese can dominate the islands, their sea lanes, and their oil, with its planes based on Hainan, together with 94 submarines, 19 destroyers, 37 frigates, and 260,000 sailors.

Six nations claim archipelago

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

☐ The Spratlys are made up of 230 islands, reefs and shoals, none permanently inhabited, spread across 70,000 square miles in the South China Sea.

☐ Control over most of the Spratlys was held by South Vietnam after the French withdrawal from Indochina in 1954.

☐ Peking passed a law in February 1992 asserting sovereignty over the islands and warned that it would defend them. There are seven Chinese garrisons on the Spratlys, 21 from Vietnam, two from Malaysia, and eight from the Philippines.

☐ The Philippines, which has the weakest navy and air force among all the claimants, insists that the conflicting claims be solved peacefully. A declaration was signed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China and other claimants in 1992, pledging joint development and peaceful dialogue to solve the dispute.

☐ In July 1992 a Chinese landing force went ashore on one of the islands 400 miles from Vietnam and 800 from China. Hanoi protested that a stone left by the invaders violated its sovereignty.

☐ In May 1994, on the same day that Peking again attacked the illegality of Vietnam's claims, Premier Li Peng told Malaysia's visiting Premier Mahathir Muhammad: "We will discuss [the Spratlys] by putting aside disputes."

☐ Hanoi and Peking have leased drilling rights in the disputed potential oil fields to American firms.



Two Chinese soldiers on the Spratly Islands, which are patrolled by numerous forces

China sets out its stall for trade talks

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PEKING

CHINA set the tone for trade talks with America yesterday by saying it expects Washington to abandon its "irrational demands" for better protection of intellectual property rights. Talks resume next Wednesday in Peking in a last-ditch attempt to avert a trade war with both sides having said sanctions will go into effect on February 26 if no agreement is reached.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted an unidentified Trade Ministry spokesman as saying: "Since the US side put forth many unreasonable demands, the two countries failed to reach an agreement during their previous talks."

China has consistently blamed the Americans for failure to reach an agreement in 20 months of talks. America wants China to strengthen enforcement of laws and regulations protecting copyrights, patents and trademarks, in particular closing down 29 factories that produce pirate compact discs. China maintains it has made great progress already and accuses America of being unreasonable and of meddling in its internal affairs.

The Trade Ministry spokesman said the Chinese side would deal with the negotiations "using a pragmatic approach ... as China has always done in the past." He was quoted as saying he hoped the American side would "respond positively".

The last round of talks, in January, reportedly broke down over China's refusal to improve protection of computer software. No further progress was made before a Washington-imposed deadline of last Saturday, when Washington published a target list of $1.08 billion (£690 million) of Chinese goods to be subject to 100 per cent tariffs.

China in return has threatened 100 per cent tariffs on a variety of American products, including cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and cosmetics.

Stars and Stripes raised in Hanoi

Hanoi: The United States raised its flag without fanfare over its liaison office in Hanoi yesterday, the first time the Stars and Stripes has flown over an American government office in Vietnam since the war ended 20 years ago. It was also the first time the flag had flown over a government building in Hanoi since 1955, when the United States closed its consulate in the capital of communist North Vietnam.

State Department and military officials watched from inside the building as three junior officials raised the flag. Lieutenant-Colonel Melvin Richmond, head of the separate American military office in Hanoi, said the United States did not want to make it appear that the issue of prisoners of war and troops missing in action was closed.

The United States says full diplomatic relations with Vietnam depend on further progress in the American drive to account for more than 2,200 servicemen missing in action in Indochina. *(Reuter)*

Chinese claim rocket blast was US sabotage

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE American satellite manufacturer Hughes Space and Communications yesterday refuted a Chinese claim that American sabotage caused the explosion of the Apstar-2 satellite and rocket last month over China.

The accusation surfaced a few days after the rocket and its satellite blew up over Sichuan province on January 26, shattering the hopes of a consortium of international investors for increasing television coverage over Asia.

The allegation was repeated ed when the Chinese-funded *Ta Kung Pao* newspaper linked the Sichuan disaster with previous Chinese launch failures involving Hughes satellites. "The Hughes-made satellites have caused incidents time and again in the course of China launching them ... there might have been an external remote control signal activating the explosion," the paper said.

The reason for the sabotage, the newspaper concluded, is that China has "entered the ranks of international satellite launchers ... its progress and development get on the nerves of some profit-seeking countries".

Don O'Neil, a Hughes spokesman, rejected the claim, adding: "It is extremely premature and irresponsible to seek to speculate on the cause of the explosion."

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TWO NEW POSTS AT ROBERT L. FLEMING LTD



Neil MacFarlane



Angela Wardlaw

Appointments to two new senior posts at Robert L Fleming Ltd., one of Britain's leading paper sack manufacturers, have been announced by the company's Managing Director, Harry Wills.

Neil MacFarlane has joined the company as Quality Development Manager from the Royal Naval Aircraft Workshops at Almondbank, Perth where he was quality assurance officer.

Angela Wardlaw becomes Management Accountant. She was an accountant at Highland Spring, Blackford in Perthshire.

Both will be based at Robert L Fleming Ltd's headquarters and major production plant at Dundee. Mr Wills said: "I am pleased to announce these two significant appointments which are part of our continual drive for the attainment of even higher quality and cost effectiveness

"In their respective spheres of influence both Neil and Angela bring considerable knowledge and experience to the company and this will be of great help in keeping us at the forefront of the paper package industry in the United Kingdom."

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Scandinavia donors to sue Boesak over funds

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

ALLAN BOESAK, the fallen hero of the anti-apartheid struggle battling accusations that he has enriched himself at the expense of victims of racism, heard yesterday that four Scandinavian charities intend suing criminal proceedings against him and other members of his Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Dr Boesak was also told after meeting a member of the Swedish Embassy staff and an official of Danchurch Aid that he would be sued for the alleged embezzlement of funds. Jhan Brisman and Christian Balslev-Olesen said after the two-hour meeting that "the donors have not found the explanations given satisfactory".

Colonel Raymond Dowd, a police spokesman, said in Cape Town last night that no complaint had been received, and that no investigation would be undertaken until a formal complaint had been lodged. Colonel Dowd did say that Major Roy Melnick was investigating the disappearance of funds passed to the foundation from the 1988 concert tour by Paul Simon, the American singer. That complaint was lodged by Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town.

Later Dr Boesak said that he had been "hurt" by the attitude of the representatives, adding that they had made up their minds about the allegations and he had not had a proper chance to put his side of the story.

"The meeting today was in a very real sense a farce," he said from his Cape Town home. "I was not given an opportunity to defend myself against allegations in the report." He declared there was nobody to whom he owed an apology, and called the Scandinavians "arrogant and in contempt of what we are trying to do. I speak with anger in my heart today. I speak with a lot of hurt. I have spent most of my life fighting for the liberation of the people. I have found that the justice I have fought for is not for me."

After the publication of the report, commissioned by the four charities from a Johannesburg firm of lawyers, Dr Boesak insisted that he was innocent of the allegations that he had enriched himself with the Nordic money. "I believe this report is a travesty of justice," he said. "I have done nothing wrong. I have not stolen any money." He claimed to see no reason why he should not take up his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

According to the report, over a period of five years the foundation gave loans of more than two million rands (£380,000) to Dr Boesak, to the foundation's accountant, Freddy Steenkamp, and other staff members. Dr Boesak tried to blame it all on his accountant, explaining that he did not know how his financial affairs were being conducted.

A Swedish Embassy statement said yesterday: "He justifies a monthly income of more than 20,000 rands on merit, and distances himself from responsibility for management of the foundation's financial affairs. Among queries raised in the investigation are payments in respect of the settlement of Mrs Boesak's debts, the purchase of Dr Boesak's house and the renovations thereof, Dr Boesak's extensive travel budget and his wedding reception."

The investigation has shown that only limited sums have been applied to foundation projects; and despite this the foundation is in debt for about three to four million rands.

"The Nordic donors wish to express our concern about the fact that needy groups have been left without the support that the Nordic agencies had intended to give them," the statement said. The donors include the Church of Norway's Council on Foreign Relations and the Olof Palme International Centre.

Dr Boesak, a charismatic orator, was the darling of the Coloured community in the Cape throughout the 1980s. He led the moves to found the United Democratic Front in 1983, which became the internal arm of the exiled African National Congress. Earlier, he had persuaded the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to declare apartheid a heresy. His reputation as a womaniser led to his being targeted by the South African security services.

When journalists found him with Elna Botha, a television producer, in 1990 he resigned from the church. He was later divorced and married Miss Botha, niece of a National Party Cabinet minister.

Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, is expected to see Dr Boesak then report to President Mandela.



Allan and Elna Boesak with Paul Simon, centre, at the former churchman's Cape Town home during the singer's South African tour

Rwanda stalls on 'peace radio' project

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A PIONEERING British effort to set up a United Nations radio station in Rwanda has run into difficulties with the new Government in Kigali which have delayed its first broadcast by months.

Britain announced last summer that it would spend £180,000 to fund a UN radio network in Rwanda in the hope of providing an alternative to the diet of ethnic hatred broadcast on local stations run by Hutu extremists.

The project is seen as a crucial test of Britain's argument that all large UN peacekeeping operations should be equipped with their own radio station. Britain this week won Security Council backing for the creation of a UN radio station in the new peacekeeping mission in Angola, and the Government has also been a staunch supporter of UN broadcasting efforts in the Balkans.

The Foreign Office asked the BBC to set up the UN station in Rwanda, and the BBC subcontracted the work to a GEC Marconi subsidiary in Chelmsford. A British engineer travelled to the country on November 1st to start work. Almost three months later, however, Radio Unamir, as the network will be known, is still not on the air and the delay has prompted questions in the Security Council.

Western diplomats say that the Rwandan Government, formed by victorious rebels from the Tutsi minority, originally thought Britain was going to help rebuild the state radio and started to stall when it became clear that British funds and expertise were going to a UN station that would be beyond its control.

However, Manzi Bakuramutsa, Rwanda's Ambassador to the UN, said the delays were not caused by his Government. He said there were still problems with the allocation of frequencies and the positioning of transmitters, but the Kigali Government was now willing to overlook them.

Diplomats say Radio UNAMIR will now go on air within a matter of days.

Britain helps rights groups

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN announced yesterday that it was contributing £60,000 to two voluntary bodies to help to enforce human rights around the world, and called on other nations to show real commitment to human rights by increasing their funding of monitoring machinery.

Addressing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva yesterday, Douglas Hogg, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, criticised the lack of progress in UN enforcement of human rights. "It is pointless for this commission to pass resolution after resolution calling for adequate funding for mandates when the resources allocated to human rights remain so woefully inadequate," he said. Britain would immediately give £30,000 each to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation and the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

He also said the UN should intensify its work in enforcing the rights of women. He called especially for swift action to stop the genital mutilation of young girls in many parts of the world. He also denounced legislation in some countries that prevents women from opening bank accounts. Praising the appointment at last year's UN commission meeting of a special rapporteur on violence against women, he gave a warning against complacency. He said the Peking conference on women next year had to produce "a sensible, useful document with practical ideas and goals".

UN seat sought by Japan

Tokyo: Japan will seek a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council in 1997 and 1998 while awaiting full membership of the body, the Jiji Press news agency reported yesterday.

Foreign Ministry officials said that Japan chose this option in order to take part in a revision of the UN Charter to permit new permanent members. An overhaul of the council which would permit new permanent members requires a revision of the UN charter. Japan has obtained non-permanent council membership seven times since 1958. The Philippines and India have already declared their candidacy for the Asian place, which will be decided in November 1996. *(AFP)*

Border crossed

Mae Sot, Thailand: Thai forces fired mortars at an estimated 50 Burmese troops who crossed into Thailand during an attack on the rebel Karen National Union's last border stronghold. *(Reuter)*

Minister goes

Athens: George Kouvelakis, the Greek Justice Minister, has resigned after a row inside the Socialist Government over prison reform policy, his press office said. The Prime Minister accepted his resignation. *(Reuter)*

Talks offered

Taipei: Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party has given a mixed reaction to an offer of new talks by President Jiang Zemin of China to end their conflict and move towards reunification. *(Reuter)*

Treason charge

Moscow: A representative of the Russian Aeroflot airline in Zimbabwe has been formally charged with high treason for spying for the African country, Moscow Military Court officials said. *(AP)*

Mink spies

Stockholm: Sweden may have mistaken sound patterns made by minks and other small swimming animals for Russian submarines thought to be spying, military chiefs now say. *(Reuter)*

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Palestinian radicals held on eve of peace summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ON THE eve of today's summit between Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip launched their severest security crackdown since the introduction of autonomy nine months ago.

By last night, more than 100 Palestinian radicals opposed to the peace process had been arrested. In addition, the ruling Palestinian National Authority announced the creation of a military court to try militants. Until now, no militant has been tried and convicted by a Palestinian court.

Legal observers said it was uncertain what the court's powers would be because the 24-member authority does not have sovereign power. Announcing the new body, which appeared to be based on the Egyptian model used for trying extremists, Colonel Hassan Abu Libdeh, the director-general of the Justice Department in Gaza, said: "The President [Mr Arafat] has issued an order setting up a state security court. Its role will be to confront all cases of violations of national security which threaten the safety and security of our country."

Most of those detained were members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Damascus-based group led by Nayef Hawatmeh, the veteran Marxist, which this week killed an Israeli civilian guard and wounded another in a Gaza ambush. Others were from Islamic Jihad, the group behind the double-suicide bombing on January 22 near Netanya that left 21 Jews dead and more than 60 injured.

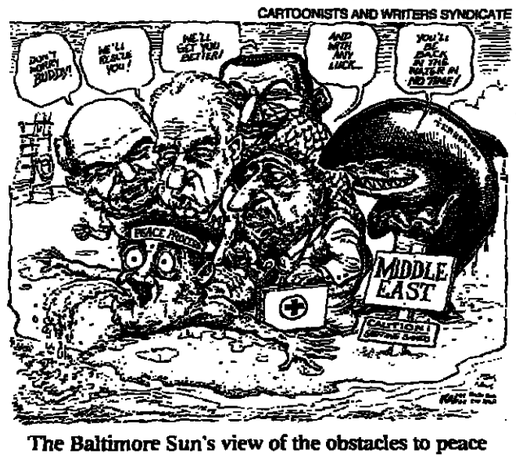
PLO sources said the crackdown was ordered by Mr Arafat in an attempt to ward off repeated Israeli criticism that the PLO is not doing enough to handle terrorism from areas now under its control. The Rabin administration has used the complaint as its main excuse to delay the second phase of the peace accord, which should have begun last July. This involves further Israeli troop withdrawals in the occupied West Bank and the staging of Palestinian elections.

Gaza residents said that among those detained was Abd al-Atif al-Haj, of the DFLP's central committee, a secular group that has remained under the PLO umbrella despite its opposition to the peace accord signed in Washington 17 months ago. Palestinian police also closed the Abrar press office in Gaza City run by Islamic Jihad backers and arrested the publisher of the militant newspaper *al-Istiqlal*.

PLO leaders have been embarrassed by recent television film showing the extent to which the two suicide bombers behind the Netanya attack have become national heroes in Gaza. In the main mosque used by members of Islamic Jihad, pictures of the dead Jews — all but one of whom were Israeli soldiers aged between 18 and 24 — are stuck up on the wall in a ghoulish celebration of the attack.

Such is the resentment among young radicals at the activities of the Palestian police that many of those under arrest have begun to address their Palestinian interrogators in Hebrew, using the word *katzin* for an officer which many learnt in Israeli prisons. "It is the ultimate insult that is open to us. It lets them know that they are doing the Israelis' work for them," one teenager said.

The Israeli press, which has heaped scorn on Mr Arafat's attempts to impose security inside Gaza, yesterday expressed support for the new clampdown, but said it might prove only temporary. "The arrest of DFLP leaders and members by the Palestinians is a reminder that there are also secular terrorists, no less brutal than Hamas or Islamic Jihad," said the mass-circulation Tel Aviv daily *Ma'ariv*. "There is a danger that this might only have been temporary action designed to impress Israel."



The Baltimore Sun's view of the obstacles to peace



Middle East snow and floods play havoc with road links

UNIVERSITY students in Amman, the Jordanian capital, trudge across their snow-covered campus. Jordan, Syria and Israel shivered under a blanket of snow yesterday which brought havoc, with blocked roads and huge traffic jams. Amman lay under a carpet of snow up to 16 inches deep and most roads linking the capital with other towns were closed, although Amman international airport remained open. Most of Syria was also covered with snow, reaching a depth of more than 12 inches in the Zabadani region, 25 miles west of Damascus. Several roads were closed to traffic. A second day of snow and ainstorms caused havoc on te roads in Israel as floods cl the main road between Te Aviv and Haifa, the authorities said. *(AFP)*

Israel debates war role for women

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

YAEL DAYAN, the daughter of Moshe Dayan, one of Israel's most famous war heroes is co-sponsoring a Knesset Bill to enable women soldiers to volunteer for the first time for combat roles.

The legislation, strongly supported by women deputies across the political spectrum in the 120-seat parliament, has prompted a bitter public argument between Ms Dayan, a member of the ruling Labour Party, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister.

At last Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Mr Rabin voiced strong opposition to the Bill, which is also opposed by many senior officers. "I am totally against this," Mr Rabin told ministers including two women, Shulamit Aloni and Ora Namir, who both support the proposed change to military regulations. "What happens if a woman falls into captivity? Who will be responsible for what happens to her?"

Ms Dayan, dismissed Mr Rabin's objection as "total nonsense". She said: "I think men being captured is just as bad. Does a womn hurt more than a man? It is trrible when anyone is captured."

Even before thfinal debate on the floor o the male-dominated Kneset, the new Bill has exposd the myth surrounding the role played by Israeli women soldiers. Women conscrips are usually given tasks suc as making coffee and fillingout forms.

The army debate, which has broadened to over women's roles in all pats of society, intensifed last nonth when a senior military commander told school puils preparing for army servie that historically men had been warriors and women postitutes. The commander was severely reprimanded, butwas supported by many ultraOrthodox Jews who fiercely oppose any form of army service for women.

The new Bil has reinforced the case of Alce Miller, a 23-year-old Jewsh aeronautics student who is fighting in the courts against the ban preventing her from becoming a pilot in the Israeli Air Force.

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Clinton hit by another nomination debacle

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S efforts to boost his popularity by intervening in America's baseball strike were being undermined yesterday by yet another debacle over a nominee for a top government job.

Congressional support for Henry Foster, who Mr Clinton nominated on Thurday as Surgeon-General, was evaporating as details of his record surfaced.

At issue was not just Dr Foster's performance of abortions, but his veracity. Congressmen were first told he had performed just one abortion, then "fewer than a dozen", and now — his opponents allege — 700. Pro-choice groups also disclosed that the black Nashville obstetrician led a study in which women were given a drug to induce abortions.

The White House suddenly has a crisis on its hands. Erskine Bowles, a deputy chief of staff, has been put in charge of an emergency fact-finding mission. Dr Foster was summoned to the White House on Monday night to answer questions. Officials have been dispatched to Tennessee to scrutinise his records and establish the truth. "The next time we utter a number it won't be based on Dr Foster's recollections," a Health Department spokesman said.

Mr Clinton is in an acute dilemma. The nomination has clearly become a liability, but to abandon Dr Foster would reinforce the public perception of the President as weak and irresolute. Some Democratic insiders believe abandoning Dr Foster would goad Jesse Jackson into challenging Mr Clinton for the Democrats' 1996 presidential nomination.

Moderate Republicans have now joined their more conservative colleagues in doubting that Dr Foster can be confirmed when hearings begin in March. Even Bill Frist, a Republican senator from Tennessee who is a friend of Dr Foster and attended his White House nomination ceremony, is equivocating.

Congressional Democrats are stunned at the continued incompetence of a White House whose failure to conduct background checks led to the abrupt abandonment of at least three nominees in Mr Clinton's early days.

Indeed, Mr Clinton was confident that in Dr Foster he had found the perfect nominee to replace Joycelyn Elders, the previous Surgeon-General he dismissed when her support for abortion rights and free school condoms made her a target for conservatives. Dr Foster was a vigorous campaigner against teenage pregnancies and was honoured by President Bush.

Mr Clinton appeared to be playing his cards rather more cannily on the six-month-old baseball strike which most Americans want resolved. With spring training starting in a week, he summoned players and owners to a five-hour meeting. The meeting failed to produce an agreement, but Mr Clinton announced he would send Congress legislation forcing the parties into binding arbitration.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, said Congress had no business intervening in a labour dispute, but on this issue Mr Clinton would appear to have public opinion behind him.

And while Mr Clinton ended a long search for a new CIA director yesterday by nominating Michael Carns, formerly second-in-command of the US Air Force, Matthew Miller, a senior aide on his economic team, resigned in protest at his failure to tackle the budget deficit more aggressively.



Margaret O'Brien expresses her gratitude for the unexpected return of her Oscar

America hails new miracle cure-all

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DRINK made from a blob-like white fungus known as "Kombucha" is being hailed in America as a "miracle tea" that can lower blood pressure, raise the body's immunity, wipe out acne, ease arthritis and even stop gray hair.

An estimated three million Americans now ferment the fungus — which reproduces itself every seven to 10 days — into a cider-like brew that is America's latest health fad.

Devotees swear that it is a "miracle cure", but sceptics suggest it is more of a miracle of marketing, and could even be dangerous.

Sometimes known as the "Manchurian mushroom", Kombucha has been used as a folk remedy in China and Russia for two millennia. Experts say that it is a collection of yeasts living symbiotically with several bacteria that produce a powerful antibiotic.

Some doctors say that Kombucha could absorb impurities from the air and become contaminated. The US Food and Drug Administration has received no reports of adverse reactions, but has launched a precautionary investigation.

O.J. Simpson trial lawyers focus on time a dog barked

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE howling of a dog has become the unlikely focus of the O.J. Simpson murder trial as prosecutors try to pinpoint the time that Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were killed.

With no witnesses to the deaths, Marcia Clark, the Assistant District Attorney, has had to rely on a neighbour's evidence about a dog's "plaintive wailing" as she tries to persuade the jury that the former football star had time to carry out the killings before catching a flight to Chicago.

A dog assumed to be Ms Brown Simpson's white Akita began barking "at a significant pitch" between 10.15pm and 10.20pm on the night of the murders last June, Pablo Fenjves said. "It sounded like a very unhappy animal," he told the Los Angeles court. Mr Fenjves, a screenwriter and former journalist, remembered the time to within five minutes because the barking began as he went upstairs after watching the ten o'clock news. He said that he was a creature of habit and always watched the first 15 to 20 minutes of the bulletin.

In an exhaustive cross-examination, Johnnie Cochran, one of the defence team, forced Mr Fenjves to admit that he did not see the dog that night, was not an expert on dogs or barking, and could state only vaguely where the barking came from. Mr Cochran tried and failed to get Mr Fenjves to say the barking might have started as late as 10.30pm, but he did show that police notes of a conversation with the witness the day after the murders were inaccurate.

Such legal chess moves may say more about the esteem in which pets are held in California than about the killings of Mr Simpson's former wife and Mr Goldman, but they are likely to be replayed ad nauseam as prosecutors try to pin down facts about the murders and the defendant's lawyers try to sow seeds of doubt in jurors' minds.

That doubt may already be forming, according to a report in yesterday's Los Angeles *Daily News* on the dismissal of a juror from the panel on Tuesday. Officially excused because she went to the same arthritis doctor as Mr Simpson, the 63-year-old white woman had also been involved in disputes with some of her black colleagues, after accusing them of prematurely forming sympathies for Mr Simpson, the newspaper reported.

The doctor in question appears to be the first Briton directly involved in the trial. Identified in a brief CBS interview on Tuesday as Dr Bertram Maltz, he trained in Liverpool and said he had carefully guarded his anonymity since the case began.

The trial continues today.

Child star wins back Oscar after 40 years

Los Angeles: An Oscar statuette that child actress Margaret O'Brien won a half century ago, only to have it stolen about ten years later, was returned to her on Tuesday by two men who bought it at a neighbourhood sale.

"It's amazing," O'Brien, now 57, said. "I never thought it would be returned."

O'Brien, who was four when she made her screen debut in *Babes on Broadway*, won the special Oscar for outstanding child actress in 1945. Sometime in the mid-to-late 1950s, a housekeeper caring for O'Brien's ailing mother stole the statuette and two other awards received from magazines, O'Brien said.

Steve Neimand and Mark Nash bought the Oscar and the two other missing awards for $500 (£325) last December at a Pasadena City College "swap meet" where vendors spread out their wares in outdoor stalls. The Oscar was then spotted in a catalogue for an auction and a close friend of O'Brien's confirmed that it was hers. Mr Neimand and Mr Nash agreed to return the Oscar and other items. *(Reuter)*



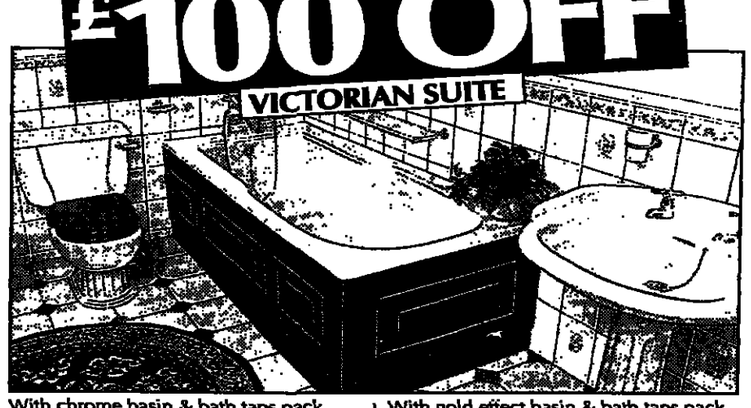
Eight-year-old O'Brien with the award in 1944

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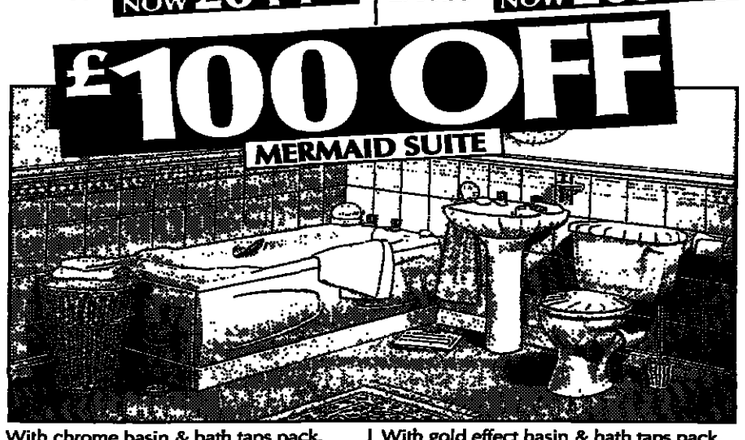
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Korean move on reactors angers US

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NORTH KOREA has bewildered Washington by abruptly trying to redraft the terms of the nuclear agreement reached with the United States last October.

Negotiators from the isolated Stalinist state have rejected plans for South Korea to provide two light-water nuclear reactors as replacements for North Korea's existing nuclear programme, which UN inspectors believed was designed to produce atom bombs. At the same time, the North Koreans are asking the Americans to provide up to $1 billion (£645 million) in extra funds for a new power grid to carry electricity when the replacement reactors are ready for use.

Clinton Administration officials yesterday described the twin claims as outrageous. Officials said the Administration would not back down over the reactors.

Arianna returns to limelight despite husband's poll defeat

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

UNFAZED by her husband's costly election loss, Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington is back in Washington with a vengeance.

On the day Michael Huffington finally conceded defeat in his California Senate race three months ago, his Greek-born wife organised a small fund-raising dinner where the tickets cost $50,000 (£31,940). The event was a "neon sign that Arianna Huffington has returned in triumph", *The Washington Post* reported yesterday.

The attraction for the 15 entrepreneurs, developers and financial advisers was to share roast rack of lamb with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, whose critics accused him of using his office improperly as a magnet for big money. However, he replied that the finance was not for a secret project but National Empowerment Television, a non-profit, conservative cable network, which carries his weekly phone-in programme.

Mrs Huffington swept into the dinner at the Hay-Adams Hotel, opposite the White House, wearing a Valentino pantsuit that she had bought during a sale at the designer's boutique. She explained that it was silly to spend full price for beautiful clothes when by waiting a few months she could get them for half price.

Some wondered if her thrift was the result of Mr Huffington having spent $28 million of his Texan oil fortune on his failed campaign. He gamely paid $50,000 for his wife's dinner, which she said was "not that much".



Mrs Huffington: riding out disappointment

Mrs Huffington, a former president of the Cambridge Union and an American citizen since 1990, scuppered speculation that she would ever run for political office, but she clearly intends to be at the centre of power. She has become a director of the Progress and Freedom Foundation, Mr Gingrich's favourite think-tank.

Mrs Huffington is putting together her own television pilot, *Beat the Press*, intended to highlight foibles and errors in the media. She is also finishing her seventh book, *What Did You Do In the Revolution, Mommy?* which includes a chapter entitled "California on $25,000 a Day".

This week's *New Yorker*, reviewing her recent chat-show appearances, says: "She has staged a comeback worthy of a Broadway star. While Candidate Huffington is missing from Earth, having his brain rewired back on the mother ship, his wife has been omnipresent".

WORLD SUMMARY

UN tries again in Angola

New York: The United Nations Security Council was poised last night to approve a big new peacekeeping operation in Angola, to which Britain is expected to contribute almost 700 troops (James Bone writes).

The council was due to vote on sending more than 7,000 peacekeepers to give the country a second chance after a previous UN-monitored peace settlement collapsed. The council resolution said the first 2,800 UN troops would be sent immediately, but that the bulk of the force would not be sent unless both the Government and Unita rebels co-operated with the mission.

Nigeria ruler sacks Cabinet

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military dictator, dissolved his civilian Cabinet in a surprise move seen as a possible step toward increasing hardliners in the Government. General Abacha had hinted at a reshuffle but was expected to wait until a national constitutional conference finished its work on the best way to return Nigeria to civilian rule. The dictator seized power in November 1993, after the military refused to recognise the victory of Chief Moshood Abiola in an aborted general election. *(AP)*

Court jails dead men

Turin: A court here sentenced Tommaso Cerraudo, a small-time criminal from Calabria, to 24 years in prison for murder, two months after he had been shot dead in a battle between rival gangs. The court only discovered the truth after it had jailed another man for the same murder, and then discovered that he, too, had been killed two months earlier. The killings, part of a vendetta between rival gangs of the N'drangheta, the Calabrian mafia, were reported in the press at the time. *(AFP)*

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Trade replaces aid as Ottawa priority

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

TRADE has replaced human rights and humanitarian aid as the number one priority in Canada's long-awaited new foreign policy.

The policy was announced this week by André Ouellet, Canada's Foreign Minister, and Roy MacLaren, the International Trade Minister, an indication of the importance the 14-month Liberal Government of Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, attaches to foreign trade. M Chrétien has travelled the world since he was elected, preaching freer trade and the removal of trade barriers everywhere he has gone.

While the old foreign policy emphasised humanitarian aid, human rights and military alliances, M Ouellet said the new policy would be based on prosperity, security and the promotion of Canadian values and culture.

Security is no longer defined as merely military security but will now include refugee problems, environmental disasters and international crime. Critics are calling the new policy "trade not aid" and predict that leading international aid organisations will see their Government grants severely cut in the next budget.

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Nato shifts focus of security concern to Mediterranean

BY GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN A marked shift of emphasis away from their traditional concerns to the east, Nato members yesterday agreed to divert some of their diplomatic attention to the security risks on the alliance's southern flank around the Mediterranean.

Nato ambassadors agreed at their weekly meeting yesterday to open a dialogue on security issues with five North African and Middle Eastern states after sustained efforts by the French and Spanish Governments to widen the alliance's priorities. Talks will be held with Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania.

"This alliance also has to project stability to the south," said Carlos Miranda, Spain's Ambassador to Nato. "In no way is this a confrontational move; we have to be careful about instability and insecurity around us."

Algeria, whose Government is locked in an increasingly murderous battle with Islamic militants, was pointedly left off the list. Israel was included at American insistence and Spain requested Mauritania's inclusion. The new links will be confined to talks between officials for the moment, although some Nato officials hope that some countries might be drawn into close co-operation similar to Nato's *Partnership for Peace*, which covers neutral and former Warsaw Pact states.

Britain has accepted the initiative but only on condition that it remains at the level of informal consultation and does not lead to any military or political commitments.

"Nato is still fundamentally an East-West organisation: to start a dialogue with the Maghreb is a bit of a new direction," one British diplomat said. "We see it as no more than a channel for north African states to discuss security questions. We are not seeking to advise them on how to stem fundamentalism."

The decision to open a fresh diplomatic front reflects Nato anxiety about nuclear proliferation and intelligence assessments which predict that several Mediterranean states have, or will soon have, nuclear weapons.

Yesterday's meeting also underscores Nato's readiness to adopt some of France's strategic agenda as French politicians move towards practical re-integration into the alliance, while remaining formally semi-detached. Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, told Germans last week that Muslim fundamentalism now posed as serious a threat to Nato states as Communism once did.

But even if the opening exchanges with the five chosen states go well, Nato's dialogue with its southern neighbours is unlikely to develop as its relationship with its former Warsaw Pact enemies has done. A number of East European states are coming closer to Nato because their economic recovery and political stability should qualify them to enter the alliance before the end of the century.

With the exception of Israel, the states to which Nato will talk more frequently face increasing, not decreasing, internal instability and are unlikely ever to be candidates for full membership.

Leading article, page 17

Algiers leaders jailed as top gangster killed

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE head of an armed gang believed to be responsible for the murder of a police chief has been killed by security forces, according to reports in Algiers yesterday. The incident was the latest in the daily violence across the country, and comes after the authorities re-arrested two leaders of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Abassi Madani, the FIS president, and Ali Belhaj, his deputy, were returned to Blida military prison after being released from jail last year as a conciliatory gesture.

The Government accused them of refusing to condemn the terror, in particular last month's bombing of the Algiers police headquarters, which killed 42 people and wounded more than 280. The re-arrest of the men makes the prospect of a negotiated end to the civil war more distant.

Violence has increased steadily in recent weeks, after a call by the FIS and the Armed Islamic Group for more deaths. Two people were killed and several others injured on Monday in an attack on a café in a Berber village. The daily newspaper *Liberté* said yesterday that two 23-year-olds were also killed in another café in Tizi Ouzou, in a region that has opposed militants.

In Egypt clashes continued between militants and security forces. A policeman was shot dead in Assiut, a centre of militancy, by suspected members of Gamaa al-Islamiya.



Marshal Pilsudski, left, no lover of parliamentary democracy before the war, and Lech Walesa, his successor as Polish head of state

Walesa draws strength from dictator idol

BY ROGER BOYES

■ **President Walesa's destruction of yet another Polish Government has touched a raw nerve among Western leaders**

LECH WALESA, like his idol Marshal Pilsudski, is no great lover of parliament. Pilsudski once ordered the police to drag Communist deputies out of their seats; inevitably, the inter-war leader slipped from being a national hero to virtual dictator.

Now President Walesa has polished up his bronze bust of the earlier Polish leader and told a radio interviewer: "Democracy has come to pose a threat to itself in Poland."

His threat to destroy yet another Government and to dissolve Parliament touched a nerve not only in Poland but also in the West. Disappointment with President Yeltsin and the Russian forces' intervention in Chechenia seem to strengthen the case for Central Europe to be admitted quickly to Nato and the European Union.

But President Walesa's erratic behaviour, his slip-shod treatment of democratic institutions, has shaken even his most enthusiastic supporters in the West. In Poland itself his fan club is an endangered species; rarely does he command more than 20 per cent in popularity polls.

One report — promptly denied but widely believed — was that President Walesa was planning to replace Waldemar Pawlak, the Prime Minister, with General Tadeusz Wilecki, the Chief of Staff, whose military career has been actively encouraged by the President and his shadowy advisers. What is Nato to make of that?

One of the conditions of future Nato membership, is democratically accountable civilian control of the military, yet the Polish President has ensured that the Defence Minister's job has been unfilled for months and has been plainly exploiting his nominal role as supreme commander to play political games with members of the general staff. The President has become the master of chaos, interpreting democracy as a process of continual confrontation.

The most commonly accepted explanation runs as follows: Mr Walesa is preparing for a presidential contest in November. His chances of re-election are poor; almost any potential rival fares better in opinion polls. The toughest contender could well be Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former Communist minister who has slickly recast himself as a social democratic market reformer. He is popular with women, uses a sun bed, plays tennis and is in almost every respect a modern Western-style politician. President Walesa's response could be to trigger a change of government and place Mr Kwasniewski in the Prime Minister's chair. That would expose Mr Kwasniewski to the usual criticism levelled at prime ministers.

This is a rather cynical reading of Mr Walesa's intentions, tantamount to accusing the former electrician of riding roughshod over infant democratic institutions in pursuit of personal power. It is, however, consistent with what is known about Mr Walesa's closest advisers, including Mieczyslaw Wachowski, his former chauffeur.

"Walesa is respected as the man who fought and won against the Communists in 1980 and again in 1989," a Western diplomat says. "He is now being crudely advised by courtiers whose concern is solely with power, to restage the battles of the past."

Yet the Polish President is not quite such an empty vessel. Over the past four years he has at least started to question the meaning of presidential power in Poland, rather than merely to echo his advisers' complaints that he does not have enough of it. His historical mission, he realises, is to be Lech the Reformer. Even if democratic regulations have to be discarded and ignored, there is a need for someone at the top to prod constantly in the direction of radical change. "Step down now!" he told parliamentary deputies this week. "Poland has no time for idling engines when the traffic lights are on green."

This was Walesa's revolutionary temperament speaking. He is, however, right to be frustrated with the governing coalition. It came to power 18 months ago with a virtual two-thirds majority and was thus in a much stronger position than any post-1989 government. But it has achieved little in terms of reform. Mr Pawlak had a distrust of privatisation and, despite some grudging public statements, of the European Union. He was in no sense a modernisер and sometimes makes spectacularly wrong decisions — such as floating a repressive Bill restricting press freedom.

President Walesa has always understood the presidential role as part of a system of checks and balances, speaking up for the people in opposition to the Government of the day. But his constitutional power does not give him that kind of authority; he is in no way a counterweight to the Parliament or Government. His restricted powers fall far short of the Gaullist or Pilsudskite authority that he craves. He is greatly and constantly tempted to break out of this constitutional straitjacket. So far he has not done so.

Roger Boyes is the author of The Naked President, *a biography of Lech Walesa, published by Secker & Warburg.*

Polish coalition turns to ex-Communist



Oleksy: no opposition from President Walesa

Warsaw: Jozef Oleksy, the Polish parliamentary Speaker, began talks yesterday about forming a Cabinet after President Walesa was said to have approved him as the country's Prime Minister.

The left-wing coalition Government chose Mr Oleksy, 48, after deciding to drop Waldemar Pawlak, the incumbent, during a crisis meeting on Tuesday night which was called after weeks of political pressure from Mr Walesa, and a threat by him to dissolve Parliament.

"The President is not opposed to the nomination of Jozef Oleksy for Prime Minister," Mr Walesa's office said in a statement, adding that the two men would meet soon, perhaps today. The President had accused Mr Pawlak's 16-month-old administration of inactivity over market reforms and said he had sheltered several ministers suspected of corruption.

Mr Oleksy is an economist with a reputation for compromise. He will be the first member of the pre-1989 Communist Government to lead a democratic administration. The change could signal a shift of power within the uneasy coalition from Mr Pawlak's Polish Peasant Party to Mr Oleksy's larger Democratic Left Alliance but negotiations on key posts are bound to be tough. *(Reuter)*

French comrades see the error of old Soviet ways

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FOUR years after the collapse of the old Kremlin, the French Communist Party has concluded finally that the Soviet Union was not an overall success.

Robert Hue, the chief of the Western party most favoured by the old Soviet leadership, saddened the dwindling band of diehard comrades with a television statement in which he reversed their doctrine that Russia's experience with Communism was "globally positive". Until his appearance on Monday night, M Hue, who is running as a presidential candidate, had avoided amending the formula that was laid down by Georges Marchais, his predecessor, in 1979.

Pushed by an interviewer, M Hue, 48, drew a deep breath and said: "The record was not globally positive. I think it had very strong, dominant dark sides. There were some positive elements, but they were minor compared with the whole." He added: "The regimes of the Eastern countries were the perversion of Communism . . . We were wrong not to break sooner with that model."

M Hue, who claims to command about 500,000 members, said it was time to examine why the party had continued to support the Soviet system for so long. The party, which came close to power after the wartime liberation and which fielded four ministers in the first administration of President Mitterrand, remained loyal to the "Soviet model" long after the Italian, Spanish and most other Western parties had espoused "Euro-communism" and criticised Moscow.

M Marchais, 74, supported the Afghanistan invasion of 1979 and has still not abandoned the faith. Under M Hue, the party has carried out a limited purge of its ideology and still carries measurable political weight, mainly through its affiliated CGT trade union. M Hue, a jovial, bearded, former nurse, is campaigning for the presidency with demands for taxes on the rich, hefty rises in wages and measures to renationalise recently privatised enterprises.

On foreign policy, M Hue still speaks highly of some Communist "models", notably that of Cuba. He has based his campaign on the theme of combat against "*l'argent roi*", or the rule of money.

Turkish warplane crashes after chase near Rhodes

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A TURKISH warplane crashed after being intercepted and chased by Greek fighters near the Aegean island of Rhodes yesterday, threatening to worsen the already fraught relations between Greece and Turkey.

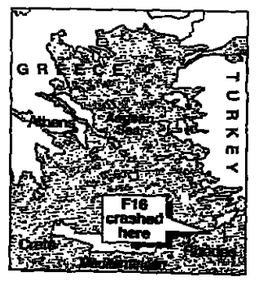
The Turkish pilot ejected and was reported to be recovering in hospital in Rhodes last night. A coastguard official in Rhodes said that four Turkish F16s violated Greek air space and were intercepted by four Greek F1 Mirage fighters.

In Ankara, however, a military spokesman said that the Turkish Air Force F16 was flying in international airspace and crashed in the Aegean during a training flight. The Turkish aircraft crashed on its way back to Turkey because of pilot error, the official added, after being pursued by two Greek Mirage F1s scrambled from Heraklion air base in Crete to intercept the Turkish aircraft.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Yildirim, the pilot, was picked up by a Greek coastguard vessel. Greece was arranging for his return to the Dalaman air base in Turkey last night.

The incident reflects the sour relations between the two Nato allies which frequently feud over territorial rights in the Aegean.

Last night Turkey tried to play down the prospect of a new diplomatic rift because of the crashed jet. "I do not believe the incident to be of a magnitude to increase tension in Greece-Turkey relations," Murat Karayalcin, the Foreign Minister, said. "We have not yet been able to speak to the pilot. [We] will make an evaluation after speaking to him."



Tense relations between the two neighbours, which nearly went to war in 1987 over mineral rights in the Aegean, have deteriorated in recent months. The Greek Government sent a draft Bill to parliament in January which would clear the way for extending the country's territorial waters from six to 12 miles. Turkey has said such an extension would virtually turn the Aegean into a "Greek lake" and warned Athens that the move would be a cause for war.

There are four main sources of tension between Greece and Turkey: Cyprus, which Turkey invaded in 1974 and which has been divided into Greek and Turkish-populated sides ever since; and three territorial disputes relating to coastal waters, the continental shelf, and — at the heart of yesterday's incident — air space. Turkish jet fighters are often accused of violating Greek air space over Rhodes. The island is part of the Dodecanese chain, part of which lies just a few miles off the Turkish coast.

Greece and Turkey have also been quarrelling over the treatment of a Muslim minority in Greece and Ankara's efforts to forge a customs union with the European Union. European foreign ministers agreed in principle on Monday to proceed with a customs union, which Greece has been blocking, in return for setting a date to start talks with Cyprus to join the European Union.

Atlantic swimmer finds serenity

Paris: A Frenchman swimming the Atlantic is on the verge of completing his journey in Barbados today but is worried about rejoining society after almost two months at sea.

"The return to humanity risks being a bit tough," Guy Delage, 42, said from the raft accompanying him since he set out from Cape Verde on December 16. "I'm coming back from a virgin, uncorrupted place . . . where I have found serenity," he said in a radio interview off the coast of Barbados after a 2,420 mile crossing plagued by mishaps.

He said his arrival would silence critics who predicted he would drown. "If I make it I'll say: 'That's it, fine. I'm not completely mad.' "

M Delage spends about six to eight hours a day in the water and the rest on the 13ft-long raft, where he rests and sleeps while drifting along. He admits he has swum well under half the distance. As he nears his goal, M Delage is not out of danger. He had to scramble aboard his raft after a 10ft grey shark swam up unnoticed on Tuesday. A few weeks ago, he kicked another shark on the nose as it came at him, jaws agape.

The flying instructor and adventurer defends his trip both as a feat of endurance and as helping scientific research. He takes notes on everything from the performance of his flippers to observing shoals of fish that often swim with him. *(Reuter)*

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Ordinary	£1+	0.80	0.60	–	–
Timesaver	£1+	0.80	0.60	–	–
	£250+	1.15	0.86	–	–
	£1,000+	2.15	1.61	–	–
First Choice	£50+	2.10	1.58	–	–
(Including Bonus)	£500+	4.25	3.19	–	–
	£3,000+	4.80	3.60	–	–
	£10,000+	5.25	3.94	–	–
	£25,000+	5.85	4.39	–	–
Special Asset	£2,500+	4.85	3.64	4.75	3.56
	£5,000+	5.35	4.01	5.20	3.90
	£10,000+	6.35	4.76	6.15	4.61
	£20,000+	6.75	5.06	6.55	4.91
	£40,000+	6.95	5.21	6.75	5.06
	£80,000+	7.25	5.44	7.05	5.29
Classic II TESSA*		6.25	–	–	–
High-Return II TESSA*		6.95	–	–	–
High-Return II Feeder		6.95	5.21	–	–
Premier Deposit	£100+	1.85	1.39	–	–
	£10,000+	5.05	3.79	–	–
	£25,000+	5.80	4.35	–	–

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	£25,000+	5.35	4.01	5.20	3.90
	£50,000+	5.85	4.39	5.70	4.28
Bonus (Inc. full bonus)	£1,000+	4.50	3.38	–	–
	£10,000+	5.50	4.13	–	–
Option 6	£2,500+	5.50	4.13	5.35	4.01
Vintage Bond 2	£5,000+	6.50	4.88	6.90	4.73
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.75	5.06
Vintage Bond 3	£5,000+	6.50	4.88	6.30	4.73
	£25,000+	7.00	5.25	6.75	5.06
	£50,000+	7.25	5.44	6.95	5.21
	£100,000+	7.40	5.55	7.10	5.33
Annual	£10,000+	6.65	4.99	6.55	4.91
	£30,000+	7.05	5.29	6.93	5.20
Premium Access (I & II)	£1+	2.35	1.76	–	–
Extra Interest	£1+	2.35	1.76	–	–
Extra Income	£1+	–	–	2.35	1.76
Real Gold (Inc. full bonus)	£1+	3.80	2.85	–	–
Flexible Savings (Inc. full bonus)	£1+	2.13	1.60	–	–
Deposit		0.80	0.60	–	–
High Flyer Issue 1	£1,000+	3.50	2.63	–	–
	£10,000+	4.50	3.38	–	–
Super 90	£1,000+	4.40	3.30	–	–
	£25,000+	5.40	4.05	–	–
	£10,000+	–	–	4.50	3.38
S.A.Y.E. (5 Year)		8.90	–	–	–
S.A.Y.E. (7 Year)		8.62	–	–	–
Spa TESSA 1*		6.55	–	–	–
Spa TESSA 2*		6.05	–	–	–
TESSA High Return Feeder I		6.90	5.18	–	–

	Gross % p.a.		Bonus % p.a.		Tax Exempt % p.a.		
Optimum TESSA I	5.80	+	1.00	=	6.80	–	–
Classic TESSA I	5.80	+	1.00	=	6.80	–	–
High Return TESSA I	6.80	+	1.00	=	7.80	–	–

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Chechen fighters regroup to start guerrilla campaign

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebel forces yesterday announced that they were pulling their military headquarters out of Grozny, apparently signalling the end of their stubborn two-month defence of the devastated Chechen capital.

At a press conference in the town of Shali, east of the city, a spokesman for General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, said that resistance would continue, if more sporadically.

"A decision was taken to move the headquarters of the armed forces outside Grozny," said Movladi Udugov, the head the breakaway republic's information service. "Special assault groups will remain in the city. They have the task of waging military activities there."

Although the Chechen leadership would not admit it, the move appeared to be a tacit admission that Russian forces have effectively captured the city after a two-month siege, which has left several thousand combatants and civilians dead or wounded. The Russian military, which kept up its artillery bombardment of Grozny throughout yesterday, claimed that its forces had penetrated deep into the last Chechen held pockets of resistance in the south and east of Grozny.

Military commanders said that they hoped to be able to withdraw their forces from Chechenia in the coming days, and to hand over responsibility to Interior Ministry troops and paramilitary police.

Once the city is securely in Russian hands, Moscow is also eager to install a pro-Russian Chechen administration, which it hopes will emerge as a credible alternative to the secessionist forces now concentrated in the countryside south of Grozny. Meanwhile, the Russian-led Government Moscow wants to install in Chechenia yesterday postponed a planned move to Grozny.

The new administration is headed by Nikolai Semyonov, a Russian who was the Communist Party boss of Grozny. His deputies are Timur Avturkhanov and Salambek Khadzhiev, a former Soviet minister for the petrochemical industry.

In spite of the setback to General Dudayev, his forces are expected to continue hit-and-run attacks in the capital, and the rest of his fighters have had ample time to regroup for what many predict will become a protracted guerrilla war against the Russians.

"The Russians in Chechenia will feel more and more strongly our resistance," said Aslan Mashkhadov, a Chechen leader fighting in the nearby town of Argun. He insisted that the city was not about to fall completely.

"We do not plan to give up the city any time in the near future," Mr Maskhadov said. "The Russians began the war in winter to block roads leading to the mountains, but we will hold on until spring. The war has only just begun." Russia's apparent victory will be welcomed in Moscow, where the Kremlin has been predicting for weeks that its forces would capture the city, only to find that their troops have had to fight street by street. President Yeltsin, who is due to attend a summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which opens tomorrow in the Kazakh capital Alma Ata, badly needed some kind of victory to shore up what is left of his credibility. However, the Russian military is likely to be haunted by its botched campaign in Chechenia for months and years to come. A Russian parliamentarian announced yesterday that criminal investigations had begun against more than 100 Russian soldiers who refused to serve in the Caucasus campaign, and who could face imprisonment for disobeying orders.



Russian soldiers take a break beside a road near the border between Chechenia and Ingushetia yesterday

Russian miners halt pits over pay

BY RICHARD BEESTON

MORE than 500,000 striking Russian miners brought most of the country's pits to a halt yesterday in a one-day stoppage that threatened to grow into all-out strike.

About 200 coal mines from the Pacific coast to western Russia were closed as miners demanded that Moscow pay salary arrears and debts to the industry worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

"We have no money to develop production, for repairs, for safety and maintenance in the mines," said Aleksandr Kharpach, a union leader in the southern Rostov region. "We risk our lives and pay with blood for the coal . . . The continuation of such a policy will force us to go to the streets with political demands."

Some miners have not received their wages since October last year, and the industry as a whole is owed about £450 million by the cash-strapped Government.

Yuri Malyshev, the chairman of the coal board Rosugol, said that the authorities would try to meet some of the miners' demands.

González refuses to call early elections

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MADRID

THE Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe González, in an attempt to shore up his battered administration's reputation, told parliament yesterday that his Government had never acted unlawfully and would not hold early elections.

In a state of the nation address to parliament in which he tried to show that he still had sufficient political support to continue in power, the Spanish Socialist leader said he recognised the gravity of an inquiry into allegations that the Government had supported death squads which killed Basque separatists in the 1980s.

"Many citizens are concerned and I want to dispel this political uncertainty," he said. "We are going to win the struggle against terrorism." But he added: "The Government has acted within the strict framework of the law in a difficult moment."

The accusations that the Government gave its backing to paramilitary teams known as anti-terrorist liberation groups, which killed 24 suspected Basque separatists, have provoked the worst crisis of Señor González's 12 years in power.

In his speech to parliament in Madrid, the Prime Minister said that the Basque separatist organisation Eta had taken part in 756 armed attacks in 20 years. "The struggle against terrorism has been an absolute priority of my Government," he said, then added: "Nothing justifies acting unlawfully; that only helps the terrorists."

Paris soccer cancelled after fan is shot dead

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE was forced yesterday to confront the spectre of football violence in its midst after the authorities cancelled all weekend matches in the Paris region to mourn a young fan who was murdered at a local game.

The death of Douadi Atou, 22, who was shot in the head by a rival supporter at Drancy, on the northern outskirts of the city, has prompted soul-searching over the emergence in the past two years of the kind of tribal thuggery, off and on the field, that France used to see as an affliction of Britain and, more recently, Italy.

Cabinet ministers and football officials met yesterday to toughen security measures that were ordered in September 1993 after supporters of Paris-Saint Germain ran wild, injuring ten riot police. The most shocking aspect of the weekend shooting for French commentators, however, was that it took place not in the heat of the First Division but at a quiet suburban field in a regional league game.

M Atou, an Algerian immigrant, was leaving the stadium after an away match played there by his team, the Berber Football Club, based in Paris's working class 20th *arrondissement*. One of a group of Drancy supporters with whom they had clashed pulled out a .22 rifle and fired three shots, killing M Atou, before fleeing.

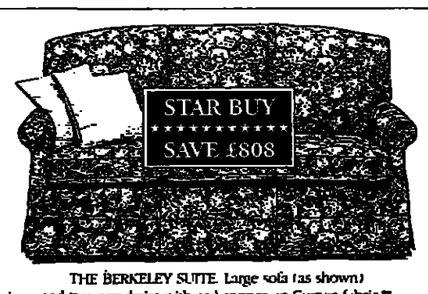
The police have charged the 18-year-old son of Arab immigrants with the murder.

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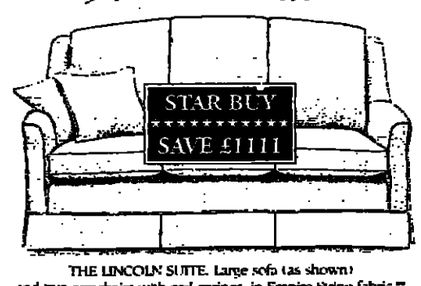
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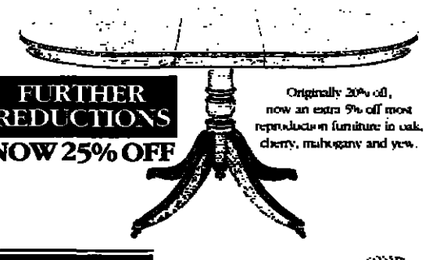
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Under Philby's spell

Richard Beeston has a reunion in Moscow with the widow of a charming traitor, and finds her still in love


JEREMY NICHOLL/KATZ

Rufina Philby in her Moscow flat: Kim told her that he had decided within seconds of their meeting that he would marry her

There is no doubt that Rufina Philby was, and still is, very much in love with Kim. "I had the most wonderful 18 years of my life with Kim," she says. And somehow you believe her.

That hesitant, boyish charm of Kim Philby had worked its way on Rufina, as it had on his other wives, friends and colleagues, who were prepared over and again to forgive his demonic drinking bouts, his deceits and betrayals.

I can recall the adoration of his previous wife, Eleanor Brewer, as he courted her in Beirut in the 1950s, and a similar effect that he had on Rufina when, as correspondent in Moscow, I met them both at the Bolshoi in the late 1970s. Last week I was in Moscow again and had dinner with Kim's widow in his old flat. I could see that, after all those years, his magic still worked. His presence had been uncannily kept alive by Rufina so that one could imagine him sitting, typing in the next room.

The winter pavements of Moscow were, as usual, covered in black ice as my wife Moyra and I slid across Pushkin Square and turned down a snow-covered lane, Triochprudny Pereulok, to the former Philby hideout.

After suffering from decades of communist neglect, the lower floors of his apartment building are now in the grip of capitalism and an American firm is noisily converting them into a modern, smoked-glass office complex. But up the shabby stairs the padded steel door installed against the wave of crime that has hit Moscow opens into Philby's unreconstructed flat, full of mementos and heavy furniture.

With a large hallway, sitting-room and study, it is spacious by Moscow standards, as befitting a senior officer in the KGB who was probably the most successful of the Kremlin's foreign spies and whose portrait even appeared on a Soviet postage stamp. In the old days the apartment had a permanent guard to protect Philby, and to watch him.

With the KGB's watching eye no longer there, Rufina now rarely goes out, rarely entertains. She is an attractive, intelligent, softly-spoken woman in her late fifties with dyed auburn hair. Her photograph, which still sits on Kim's desk, testifies to the stunning young woman he married.

Her widow's pension has all but disappeared in post-communist inflation. The value of the rouble has plummeted from about one rouble to the pound to the current rate of 6,000. It was to make ends meet, she says, that she decided last year to auction off at Sotheby's some of her husband's books, letters and personal belongings.

Over a dinner of sturgeon, zakuski, vodka and Georgian wine, she told us how she first met Kim on a blind-date in 1970 arranged by her friend, Ida, the wife of another British spy, George Blake. Kim had defected seven years earlier and by that time had broken with Eleanor and ended his relationship with the spy Donald Maclean's American wife, Melinda.

Kim Philby was reported by then to be in very bad shape, a pathetic drunk, unemployable by the KGB, who occasionally tried unsuccessfully to dry him out. Rufina claims credit for his rehabilitation, and certainly when I met them eight years later, he was sober, amusing and in far better shape than in his years in Beirut where we had known him.

However, she reacted angrily when a reference was made to a book written by General Oleg Kalugin, the KGB's former Deputy Director of Counter-Intelligence. Kalugin said that he had arrived at Philby's flat to find him leaning against the door totally drunk, and that it was Kalugin who helped to rehabilitate him, and arranged for him to take part in espionage training schemes for Soviet agents.

Rufina told us that she was deeply hurt about books written on Kim and had written her own account of her life with him. She was now looking for an English publisher. She also disclosed that she had the original manuscript of Kim's book, *My Secret War*, which she said had been heavily censored by the KGB before publication.

British intelligence officials were impressed by the professionalism of the book which gave

> Up the shabby stairs and behind the padded door his memory was still being kept uncannily alive

absolutely nothing away — not even hinting at the method of Philby's escape from Lebanon to the Soviet Union after being confronted with the proof that his game was up. A comparison of what Philby left in and what the KGB took out should make a fascinating study for anyone interested in the intelligence world during the Cold War.

When Rufina met Kim at the *American Ballet On Ice*, she had no English and he only basic Russian. But he said to her in Russian: "Please take off your glasses, I would like to see your eyes." Later he told her that he had decided within seconds of their meeting that he would marry her.

"Kim was so English," she said. While he spent more and more time listening to the World Service of the BBC, Rufina told me she began teaching herself English, largely through reading romantic novels, until she was more fluent in English than he was in Russian.

Despite the Sotheby's sale, the apartment was still full of mementos. While we were having dinner I noticed a large Italian engraving of a column in Rome entitled, "Colonna Antonino". "Where did that come from?" I asked her.

"An anonymous man handed it in to the Soviet Embassy in London and asked for it to be sent to Kim in Moscow," Rufina said. "We realised later that it was a present from Kim's friend, Anthony Blunt."

Philby's study has been left pretty much as it was on the day he died. There was a photo of him as a pipe-smoking young undergraduate at Cambridge, photos of Rufina, a portrait of Che Guevara and an old photograph of the Normandy Hotel in Beirut where I occasionally met Kim at the bar when we were both working for British newspapers.

I got to know him well and despite his "third man" reputation, I was sufficiently naive not to believe that he was a Soviet agent. Years later I met him at the Bolshoi when I had already been in Moscow for six months, unable to procure an office or anywhere to live from the government agency in sole charge of these matters. In frustration, I was preparing to give up and return to Washington when I mentioned my problem to Kim during an intermission.

"I still have one or two contacts here. I'll see what I can do," he said. The next day I was phoned by a man from the ministry to say that an apartment had been allocated and that we could move in immediately.

In Russia you are never sure, even today, how things work — but I had a suspicion who was behind that decision. "I am glad you got your flat at last," said Kim in a letter he sent after I had moved in.

"I would like to think it was the result of a few telephone calls I made after our meeting at the Bolshoi. But then again, it may have been a coincidence."

I asked Rufina if she remembered the episode. "Oh yes," she said, "Kim was so happy. He said it is not often you are able to do things to help old friends."

● *Richard Beeston is the father of the Times's Moscow correspondent.*

Proud to be a provincial in the High Court

Jayne Willetts, top lawyer relishes her Brummie base, says **Margot Norman**

Somehow, the words "first female solicitor to be granted the right to appear in civil cases in the High Court" do not conjure up the image of an attractive, leggy young woman who rides to hounds and says she specialises in "widget litigation" in Birmingham.

One imagines a weary veteran of the big-money, big-hours regime in a high-powered City firm like Slaughter & May, deservedly nicknamed the Slaughterhouse; but there is no weariness in the long stride of Jayne Willetts, who gets into her office by eight, takes off her blazing red swing-coat, rolls up her sleeves and is generally out again by five.

As a single mother with a baby of 18 months, she has learnt more than most lawyers about the importance of getting to the point, and not wasting time.

Not that she had all that much to learn in that department: she chaired the Warwickshire young solicitors' group almost as soon as she qualified in 1982, went on to chair the Law Society's national committee for solicitors aged under 36 and now sits on a whole range of local, national and international legal bodies. A natural enemy of legal waffle, she certainly will not be one of those advocates the judges have to tick off for longwindedness.

She is now one of only 45 solicitors to have earned by examination what the Law Society calls "an extremely gruelling intensive advocacy course" the right to appear for their clients instead of, or alongside, a barrister in High Court litigation. The other 44 are all men, so it will be a while before what the lawyers call "mixed doubles" — a solicitor and a QC acting together — means what the layman would take it to mean. (A handful of women have already jumped the hurdles to a right of audience in criminal cases, but most of the solicitors now exempted from the exam by virtue of sitting as assistant recorders).

To have spent your working life in a big City firm is, in fact, a disadvantage in this particular race because you are unlikely to meet the eligibility criteria for the advocacy exam. (There's a bit of a Catch-22 here: you must have done some before they'll teach you to do more.) Better to have worked, as Jayne Willetts did after she qualified in 1982, in a small provincial firm where "everybody had to do everything, including appearing in front of magistrates".

Miss Willetts is proud of being a provincial lawyer. Now one of 60 partners in Edge and Ellison, one of Birmingham's big law firms, she relishes being a power in the local commercial community. She had enough of London as a law student at University College and the College of Law at Lancaster Gate, where she got 3 per cent in her first accounts exam and 97 per cent the following term. ("At first I didn't understand any of it, but a term later I did: I'm not an academically brilliant lawyer, but I'm an all-rounder and a communicator.") Returning to live near a support network of parents and childhood friends outside Birmingham was a sensible move.

"You should have been here on Friday, when the Lord Mayor led a big procession to open our new court buildings and said he was fed-up with hearing Birmingham being called England's second city. This was ridiculous, he said, because London was no longer a city at all, but a Balkan enclave of 33 warring boroughs."

Miss Willetts is also proud of Birmingham's new mercantile court, an innovation that has, she says, been a resounding success. "It saves people a lot of time and money, not having to take cases to London. We have one full-time judge, and we need another one."

Partners at Edge and Ellison


Jayne Willetts: hates waffle

charge £140 to £160 an hour, and this one is undoubtedly on the same wavelength as her no-nonsense corporate clients who say time is money, and going to court is a mug's game unless you absolutely have to. "Only a bad solicitor would take a bad case to court. Some do, because they can't see the thing clearly enough and it all rumbles on towards the courts like a runaway train. They should have got it sorted out long before."

The daughter of a civil engineer and a teacher, she was the odd one out at the girl's grammar school in Stourbridge in wanting to be a solicitor. The other ones wanted to be social workers, apart from the cleverest one, who wanted to be a vet. Neither she nor the careers people at school knew much about law, but it sounded interesting and she now says she couldn't have chosen a better career.

Jayne Willetts is above all practical, but thinks herself no more so than women in general, who are for that reason an asset to the profession. ("Unlike men, they only tend to volunteer for things they are confident they can actually do.") Her firm apparently agrees: the commercial litigation department has four female partners and three male. One forsees some entertaining legal tennis, ladies' as well as mixed doubles, in the High Court before long.

Are the grouse-hunters better conservationists than the greens?

Magnus Linklater believes that naturalists should come out from under cover and leave the balancing of nature to sporting landowners

THERE is a story told about the old Duke of Westminster returning home after a successful shoot on his Derbyshire grouse moor. One of his guests, turning to his host, asked him what he believed was the key to a well-run grouse moor.

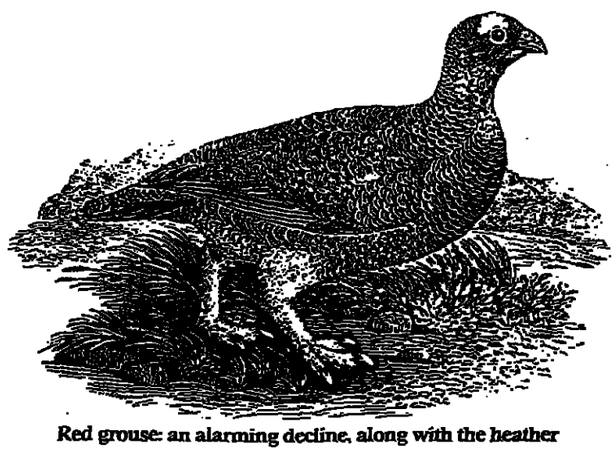
"Money," answered the duke. He might have added: "And no bloody interference from so-called conservationists."

In those days a decent-sized grouse moor would have a small army of gamekeepers whose job it was to ensure that grouse stocks remained high. That meant not only maintaining the heather by burning it regularly and carefully, but keeping down "predators", among which they would have included birds of prey which are now protected species.

Today the golden eagle is safe, if still rare, and so are the peregrine and the hen harrier. But there has been an uncomfortable side-effect: There has been an alarming decline in the numbers of red grouse, particularly in Scotland. This has gone hand in hand with the retreat of the heather which is their natural habitat.

A joint report on the heather moorland of Scotland, England and Wales shows an alarming decline in this wild, apparently untamed, landscape. The rolling purple hills are steadily losing the heather that gives them their character. Scientific surveys show that heather upland declined by 18 per cent in Scotland between the 1940s and 1970s; in England and Wales by 20 per cent; and that up to 70 per cent of what remains is "at risk".

The report, from scientists working for Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature and the Joint Conservation Committee, point to over-grazing, forestry, the spread of agricultural land and "bad practice" on the country's grouse moors as the cause. There is no doubt that the big increase in the number of deer is a major factor in the decline of the heather. There are now an estimated 300,000 deer in Scotland alone — numbers have virtually doubled in 30 years — and in some places the herds have grown in density as the spread of skiing and forestry has limited the areas in which they were once free to move. Sheep have increased too, but the number of shepherds has dropped, so that flocks are no longer controlled in the way they once were. And the big grants available for tree-planting have meant that landowners faced with poor rents from increasingly defunct grouse moors have turned to forestry instead. That, of course, spells the final death warrant for any open stretch of heather.


Red grouse: an alarming decline, along with the heather

But it is on the crucial issue of the management of Britain's grouse moors that the report's conclusions are least satisfactory. It pays lip-service to the importance of a well-maintained moor, but cannot quite bring itself to accept that the only people prepared to bear the cost are those whose interest it is to shoot large numbers of grouse; that grouse and birds of prey do not go well together; and that there will always be a conflict between the interests of the sporting landowner and the bird-lover. One scientist involved in the report complains that "there appear to be very few shooters prepared to welcome bio-diversity on the moor in the shape of a golden eagle or a peregrine falcon".

Well, of course they don't, especially when a falcon, which is a extremely efficient killer, can account for about 500 grouse in the course of a year.

The report highlights concerns over the decline of moorland birdlife in the past 40 years. Golden plover, merlin, greenshank, lapwing, snipe and, of course, red grouse are among the species which have begun to disappear, though others like the skylark, the curlew and the short-eared owl have remained static. There must, therefore, have been a period when there was a richer "bio-diversity" on the hills than there is today.

Forty years ago a good bag on a well-managed moor could be as much as 400 grouse in a day. There were also higher numbers of golden eagles, hen harriers and buzzards too, so logically the report should be urging a return to something like the regime that existed then, when the gamekeeper made his own rules and maintained the balance that he, rather than the conservationists, wanted.

Instead it skates round the issue: "On balance," it observes, "we consider that well-managed grouse moors... provide for a high bio-diversity and distinctive character in the landscape. The most satisfactory management for nature conservation should be achieved by enhancing species diversity in general rather than by judging results solely on the abundance of red grouse."

But there's the flaw. Only if there is an abundance of grouse will shooters be prepared to pay the huge sums needed to pay for the keepers to burn the heather, to control the predators, to manage the moor, and thus to preserve it in the state which the conservationists want.

The report concedes that it is a lack of cash on many estates and the fact there are fewer gamekeepers to manage the land which accounts in part for the decline of the habitat. But it will not go so far as to examine where that cash might come from. That may not be its remit, but in failing to explore the issue it exposes a major gap in current conservationist policy.

NOT SO long ago I asked a naturalist whose name is synonymous with green issues what he thought was the ideal solution for preserving the balance of nature in hill country. "The traditional landowner, with a bit of money and an interest in grouse-shooting and deer-stalking, is still the best, possibly the only reliable conservationist in hill country — but don't for goodness sake quote me on that," he said.

Perhaps the time has come for the naturalists to be open about what they really think. At the rate things are going, the bonny purple heather and the noble grouse that once thrived among it may only be memories by the time they have admitted why they disappeared.

DELTA AIR LINES ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

☐ Regular joggers can help to keep diverticular disease at bay ☐ Angina and surgery for the over-70s ☐ Mystery of the shifting shrapnel

Experiencing a gut reaction

REGULAR and steady exercise, taken in an uncompetitive way, helps to keep the cardiovascular system healthy. So far as longevity is concerned, everyday brisk walkers do almost as well as those who indulge in regular vigorous exercise, and very much better than those whose only exercise is the playing of a violent game once or twice a week.

But now recent research in America will give comfort to those runners whose set expression betrays the obsessive nature of their workout regime. Their coronary arteries may not be in any better order than those of the people who only take the dog out for half an hour's run daily — but their guts are.

The latest edition of the journal *Gut* reports on a survey of about 50,000 American men between 40 and 75 whose health had been monitored for four years.

The joggers and runners were only 40 per cent as likely to develop diverticular disease of the colon as the slothful. Those who took less strenuous exercise did not benefit so much: their reduction in diverticular disease was under 10 per cent. But even they could keep diverticular disease at bay if they supplemented regular, steady exercise with a high-fibre diet. It seems that walking the dog each morning will do nicely, provided that afterwards breakfast includes a large bowl of porridge.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Diverticula are pouches or sacs which are usually small and are formed when the mucosal lining of the gut pushes its way through a weak patch in the muscular wall of the colon. These weak patches usually occur at the point where a blood vessel enters the muscle wall. Diverticula become progressively more common with advancing years, so that by the age of 90 everybody has a few. In middle age they are more troublesome in men; in old age this situation is reversed.

The terms "diverticular disease", "diverticulosis" or "diverticulitis" are bandied about even in the most reticent of company, few of whom know what a diverticulum was in classical times. Then a diverticulum meant a wayside brothel. And today's diverticula, the cul-de-sacs of the highway of the gut, can cause every bit as much trouble as the roadside houses of ill-repute of history.

In diverticular disease, symptoms can occur even in the absence of demonstrable infection, diverticulitis. Occasionally, a non-inflamed diverticulum will erode an adjacent blood vessel and cause a haemorrhage. Many doctors suspect that they also give rise to diarrhoea or colicky pain. When a diverticulum becomes inflamed because bowel contents have been trapped in the pouch, there is pain, and local tenderness in the lower abdomen, together with other symptoms similar to those with appendicitis, but in this case more likely to be centred on the left rather than the right hand side of the abdomen.

Most attacks settle with appropriate antibiotic therapy, even though many patients will need admission to hospital. Should the gut perforate, emergency surgery provides the only hope of recovery. In some cases, it is necessary to remove a length of colon which has been badly affected by diverticular disease.

Heart pains



THE FORECAST for the weekend is colder weather. A few cold days will often uncover the first signs of angina. A patient who has been able to climb a local hill without pain may suddenly notice a constricting central chest pain. This could possibly be accompanied by tightness in the neck or an ache down the left arm. Others may notice that similar pains are induced by climbing stairs, or even heavy emotion, particularly if they have also eaten a large meal recently. Whatever may have precipitated these classic signs of angina, the coronary artery circulation certainly needs investigation. Age is no bar to surgical treatment when angina is limiting activities.

A survey published in the journal of the Royal College of Physicians shows, unless ageing Devon patients are uniquely unlucky, that not all GPs have been following the Royal College's guidelines on angina.

The researchers polled 235 doctors in the Plymouth area; 9 out of 10 replied that they treated patients over 70 with symptoms of coronary heart disease themselves without further investigations. They didn't accept the idea that older patients would be likely to benefit from bypass surgery or angioplasty.

Despite Devonian pessimism, the statistics for surgical intervention for coronary heart disease in the over-70s are relatively good: the overall mortality is only 8 per cent, which would leave most of the rest still able to walk over Dartmoor after a bypass.

Needle case



ON FEBRUARY 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison. There was delay at the last moment, the crowd grew restless and a few windows were broken. The police, understandably rather edgy, opened fire with buck shot and John Ellison, then foreign editor of the *Daily Express*, who was covering the story, was hit in the neck behind the right ear.

The wound healed, but it was decided that no effort would be made to remove the shot.

Six months later, Mr Ellison, by then back in Fleet Street, noticed a hard round lump over his left breast. The mass was caused by the shot which had migrated from behind the right mastoid process to the left chest wall from where it was easily removed.

Mr Ellison's experience was reminiscent of many similar instances in those wounded in the war, in which pieces of shrapnel are massaged by movements of muscles so that they migrate between the muscles' sheaths and later appear at a surface where they are least expected.

The inquiry at the Treliske Hospital, Cornwall, will have to decide whether the needle in the case of baby Benjamin Jones was just such a case and had been left behind after it had been used to take blood or spinal fluid, or whether it had become accidentally bound up in the child's clothing or wound dressings.

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



Computed tomography (CT) scan of a woman with ovarian and uterine cancer (the black areas). If ovarian cancer is treated before it spreads the five-year survival rate is over 95 per cent

Can ovarian cancer be prevented?

Many cancers can be easily detected or anticipated. But the ovaries present special problems, says **James Drife**

The fourth most common cancer in British women — after breast, colon and lung — is ovarian cancer, which in 1989 affected 5,100 women in England and Wales and killed 3,844. This number of deaths is higher than the total for all other gynaecological cancers (including cervix) put together. How can it be reduced?

Ovarian cancer mainly affects older women, the peak incidence being around the age of 70. Its frequency has increased since the Second World War and in fact the death rate has more than doubled over the last 60 years. This may be because the average age at the first menstrual period has fallen and because women now have fewer pregnancies. Both these trends have increased the number of ovulations experienced by the average woman, and ovulation is almost certainly a risk factor of the disease.

It is a particularly dangerous cancer. Forty per cent of patients die within a year of diagnosis and less than 30 per cent are alive after five years. The main reason is that it usually remains undetected until a late stage. Ovarian cancer rarely causes pain and the woman may notice nothing wrong until advanced disease causes swelling of her abdomen. Early diagnosis greatly improves the outlook. If the disease is treated while still confined to the ovaries, the five-year survival rate is over 95 per cent.

Early detection is difficult because the ovaries are hidden in the pelvis. They can, however, be seen on ultrasound scanning with machines similar to those used during pregnancy.

The first sign of cancer is ovarian enlargement. Unfortunately the size of the ovary is affected by many factors such as a woman's age and weight. Before the menopause the ovaries enlarge at certain stages of the menstrual cycle. Furthermore, ovarian enlargement is often due to benign cysts. Ovarian screening by ultrasound scanning may therefore give false-positive results, which not only cause needless worry but also lead to unnecessary surgery. For example, in one study of women aged over 40, 1,000 women were screened and 31 had an abnormal scan. Twenty-four underwent an operation to allow closer examination of the ovaries. Only one had cancer.

Researchers are therefore trying to improve the accuracy of ultrasound screening. Increased bloodflow to a tumour can be detected by specialised "Doppler" ultrasound. This technique has been applied at King's College Hospital, London, to women with a family history of ovarian cancer. Of 1,601 women screened, 61 had a positive scan and underwent surgery, and six cancers were diagnosed. Women who know they are at high risk may be willing to accept this high false-positive rate.

> 'Use of the Pill might save hundreds of lives'

Other research has combined ultrasound scans with blood tests. Ovarian cancer often produces unusual proteins and these can be detected in the blood. These so-called "tumour markers", however, are not unique to ovarian cancer. For example, CA125, the best known of them, is elevated in 70 per cent of women with ovarian cancer but also in 10 per cent of normal women. Blood levels of CA125 are raised by menstruation, so this test is most useful after the menopause.

At the Royal London Hospital 22,000 postmenopausal women were screened using CA125 measurement followed by ultrasound. Of the 41 who had a positive result and underwent surgery, 11 had ovarian cancer. Of the 21,959 women who had a negative result, eight subsequently developed ovarian cancer.

Various other tumour markers are being investigated in the hope of developing a more accurate screening test by measuring several markers in the same blood sample. Ultrasound scanning can then be reserved for women who had a positive blood test. Later this month a large research project will be launched in Britain, involving 120,000 women. Half will receive no screening and half will have a blood test measuring two tumour markers, one of them CA125.

Although ovarian screening is still not precise enough to be introduced nationwide, it is suitable for women with a family history of the disease. Up to 5 per cent of ovarian cancers are hereditary and in some families the risk is increased between two and ten times above normal.

Ovarian cancer screening aims to detect the disease as soon as possible after it begins. This is different from cervical screening, which can detect precancerous changes and prevent cervical cancer ever developing. Ovarian cancer, unfortunately, does not go through a detectable precancerous phase.

Are there any ways to prevent ovarian cancer altogether? Unlike lung cancer, it does not have an avoidable cause. It can be prevented by removing the ovaries while they are still healthy, and some women from high-risk families choose this option once their childbearing is complete. After the operation they take hormone replacement therapy.

A woman without a family history of the disease has a 1 per cent risk of developing ovarian cancer. Could this be reduced? At present in Britain about 20 per cent of women undergo hysterectomy, mostly between the ages of 40 and 55. Hysterectomy may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer even if the ovaries are left behind, but the risk can be completely abolished by removing the ovaries. A survey of British gynaecologists showed that 85 per cent would suggest removal of the ovaries to a woman undergoing hysterectomy after the menopause but only 20 per cent would remove normal ovaries if the woman was aged 45-49.

It has been calculated that current gynaecological practice already reduces the occurrence of ovarian cancer by as much as 12 per cent and that a further 10-14 per cent of cancers could be prevented if more ovaries were removed at the time of hysterectomy. However, with a 1.7 per cent overall risk, 60-100 pairs of normal ovaries would have to be removed to prevent each cancer.

The oral contraceptive pill, which prevents ovulation, is known to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer by about 40 per cent. Two years of the Pill produces a protective effect lasting up to 15 years. In Britain the Pill has been used mainly by young women but modern low-dose Pills can safely be used by women in their forties, provided they are non-smokers with no risk factors for heart disease. A health education programme encouraging women over 40 to use the Pill might save hundreds of lives.

● *James Drife is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Leeds.*

Ethnic groups and a question of health

Dr Trisha Greenhalgh on a survey with some surprising findings

A fundamental principle of the NHS is equity — that is, the quality, accessibility and appropriateness of health care should be the same regardless of age, income, gender, religion or ethnic background. Health authorities are legally obliged to determine, and respond to, the particular needs of their ethnic populations.

Not only do ethnic populations experience different patterns of disease, but they also have different ideas about what has caused their illness and what might cure it. They may attach considerable significance to the opinion of a religious or cultural leader.

In practice, however, there is a fine distinction between acknowledging that ethnic minorities have different needs and allowing one's clinical judgement to be influenced by inaccurate cultural stereotypes — for example, that Afro-Caribbean teenagers are promiscuous.



Asian women rarely smoke

Both the planners and the providers of health services will welcome the publication of the results of a survey by MORI into the health status and health-related behaviour of the predominant ethnic groups in England. More than a hundred specially trained researchers interviewed over 4,500 Black African, Afro-Caribbean, Indian (including East African Asian), Pakistani and Bangladeshi people in their homes. They collected data on employment status, housing, levels of illness and disability, perceived causes of ill health, and perceived barriers to maintaining good health.

Some of the results were unsurprising. For example, they showed that Asian women rarely smoked and that Indians and Bangladeshis of both sexes consumed betel nut and chewed tobacco, an important cause of mouth and throat cancer. However, contrary to the belief of many doctors, Asian and African-Caribbean smokers were just as aware of the harmful effects of smoking, and as keen to quit, as the general population.

While doctors advised a similar proportion of smokers to give up in all ethnic groups, Asian patients were less likely to be prescribed nicotine substitutes.

Another unsurprising finding was the low uptake of cervical smears in Bangladeshi and Pakistani women (28 per cent and 32 per cent respectively, compared with the UK average of 60 per cent). The reticence of these women, most of whom are Muslims, is usually attributed to religious prohibitions or modesty. However, this survey found that over half of them had either never been called up for a smear test or did not know what one was. Reasons of embarrassment or fear accounted for only around 5 per cent of non-attenders.

Levels of chronic illness and disability were high in all ethnic groups. For example, in men aged between 50 and 75, 33 per cent of Indians, 37 per cent of African-Caribbeans and 64 per cent of Bangladeshis described their health status as poor, compared with a UK average of 15 per cent. High rates of diabetes, heart disease, rheumatism and stomach problems accounted for much of the excess disability in Asians, whereas African-Caribbeans identified diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and sickle-cell anaemia. Admission of depression, or trouble with "nerves", was less common in these groups (6-7 per cent) than in the general UK population (14 per cent), despite a similar proportion feeling under stress. This supports the belief of many doctors that psychological problems may be somatised — that is, experienced as physical symptoms — by certain ethnic groups.

Eighty-four per cent of Bangladeshi respondents said they lived in cold, damp or cramped housing conditions, and more than a quarter felt that this had upset their health. Other factors perceived as adversely affecting health by all the groups surveyed were unemployment, violent crime, racism, and stress or worries at home or at work.

Surprisingly few respondents reported communication difficulties with their doctor, perhaps because over 80 per cent of Asian patients were registered with a GP from a similar ethnic background. However, many felt that access to their GP was difficult because the surgery was too far away. Only a fifth of Asian women had access to a female GP, but about 40 per cent of the remainder would prefer to see a woman.

● The Health and Lifestyles of Black and Minority Ethnic Groups in England *is published by the Health Education Authority, £15.*

We're making now with vegetables

Janet Daley



■ Politicians want deference; broadcasters want blood-letting; but what does the public want?

We were all milling around in the mellow demob atmosphere that follows a current affairs discussion programme. In the midst of the bibulous good fellowship, a very important member of the Opposition front bench suddenly said, apropos of nothing at all: "That's the trouble with Paxman. He never listens." It was this trait of "never listening" that made Jeremy Paxman unacceptable as a television interlocutor, said the very important Opposition spokesman. The man to whom his remarks were directed was an executive from BBC News and Current Affairs. I looked expectantly at the executive, waiting for him to offer any of the loyal protestations he might have put forward on behalf of one of the corporation's most outstanding performers. He could have chided the politician gently with a reminder that it was, after all, part of the business of an alert interviewer to discomfit public figures.

Or he could have articulated my own thoughts and snapped, "Surely your objection is that Paxman listens too carefully — how else could he dismember your arguments so skilfully?" But to my amazement, the BBC executive said none of these things. Instead, he nodded in grinning agreement, adding a few enthusiastic elaborations of his own to this portrait of Jeremy Paxman as The Man Who Never Listens. I came away from that little post-programme gathering furious with myself for not having spoken up for a colleague I felt to have been traduced.

But then I thought — as one does — that it probably meant very little: simply a bit of tactful sucking-up to a politician who could soon be in power. Then John Birt gave his lecture in Dublin and suddenly what that suit from upstairs had said became part of a larger picture. A good deal has already been written on the subject of Mr Birt's comments, much of it by journalists pointing out that deference to established power is not now, and never has been, the function of a free press. What has been noted rather less is that the Director-General was speaking, in two separate senses, as if he were an outsider to the BBC.

In themselves, his remarks could simply be a bit of clever posturing — an attempt to neutralise criticism of the BBC by incorporating it. Speaking for Everyman would be consistent with a fashion that has taken hold in current affairs programming. There is a belief that to counteract the power of the Westminster club of pundits and MPs — to be truly democratic — programmes must include as much uninformed banality from the general public as possible. The antidote to smart-alec interviewers spinning out the circumlocutions of those in power is to drag a bus queue into the studio to add its own ill-assorted judgments to the stew. This revolt against professionalism and coherence is thought to increase something called "empowerment", when what it usually adds to the proceedings is embarrassment.

But there is another sense in which Mr Birt's condemnation of confrontational broadcasting is quite baffling. Does he really have no idea how much pressure to be aggressive is put on broadcasters from within the corporation itself? Is he not aware that one is warned constantly — I speak from the heart here — about lapsing into "dull, rational debate": that the more anger generated in the audience by outrageous behaviour on air, the more successful a programme is considered to be? Audiences may very well long for more thoughtful analysis of serious issues — although this does not consist of "listening" credulously while politicians evade questions. But when listeners and viewers write in to request it, they are dismissed as either naïve or unrepresentative. Real audiences, it is insisted, want excitement and blood-letting, not earnest debate. This is so much the conventional wisdom of his own organisation that I am amazed Mr Birt has not come across it.

> The BBC itself values heat more than light

And then there is the "feeding frenzy" of speculation which many politicians (and Mr Birt) decry. Ministers jam up behind one another to get on to the *Today* programme in order to deliver gnomic soundbites, which they hope will dominate the rest of the day's news coverage. When their opaque statements are dissected by commentators, magnified by the Opposition (or dissident backbenchers), and generally interpreted to death, they cry foul. But their remarks would not have such disproportionate consequences if they were clear and forthright in the first place.

We are all familar now with the phenomenon of speculation building on speculation throughout the long day of news broadcasting until it spins out of control into a trumped-up crisis. But this is caused not so much by peculiarly irresponsible journalism as by a generation of unusually dissembling, equivocating political leaders. When government and opposition refuse to state their policies unambiguously, they leave a vacuum to be filled by rumour and self-generating controversy as commentators attempt to read some meaning into their every hint and guarded remark.



All the Speaker's men

Gingrich has inspired a generation of Republicans, and shifted US politics

William Rees-Mogg

Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is an intriguing American political figure, half populist and half intellectual, the creator of a great electoral victory who is nonetheless rather disliked by many of the Americans one meets. He has changed the history of American politics, but his own political future is by no means certain. He has great power in this Congress; that will last for the next two years, but after that no one can tell. He looks more like a Prophet than like a King.

Quotations from Speaker Newt has recently been published. It includes his "Contract with America". This book demonstrates his remarkable gift as a propagandist for the ideas of the new Republican Party. He would have made a wonderful speechwriter for Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s; he certainly makes a wonderful speechwriter for himself in the 1990s.

His one-liners make conservative points with great economy. "The welfare state kills more people in a year than private business." "If you want to live seven times as well as somebody in Canton, you're going to have to be seven times as productive." "To decide you're irritated with Bush on taxes and decide to marry Clinton is like having dated a social drinker and ended up by marrying a bartender." "The Conservative issue is life for your grandchildren."

These are not particularly original in philosophical terms, but Newt Gringrich puts in single sentences what other Republican politicians put in paragraphs or pages.

When he first reached the House of Representatives, he won a reputation, rather like Norman Tebbit, for the savagery of his attacks. Looking back in 1990, he commented that he had been a backbencher "who knew that in order to be effective, you had to use certain techniques". When he became the Republican Whip in the House of Representatives in 1989, he developed friendlier propaganda techniques to create a Republican majority in the House. "I'll do almost anything to win a Republican majority in the Congress," he said in 1991, and within three years he had achieved his aim.

The method he used, particularly in drafting the Republican election platform, the "Contract with America", was to put complex proposals in direct and popular terms. The headings of the contract tell the story. "The Fiscal Responsibility Act." "The Taking Back Our Streets Act." "The Personal Responsibility Act." "The Family Reinforcement Act." "The American Dream Restoration Act." "The National Security Restoration Act." "The Senior Citizen Fairness Act." "The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act." "The Common Sense Legal Reform Act." "The Citizen Legislature Act." One expects to see "The Motherhood and Apple Pie Act", and wonders why that was omitted.

The slogans are homely but the policies are sophisticated. "The Common Sense Legal Reform Act" is being put through the House of Representatives by Christopher Cox, who represents Orange County in California. Horrifying abuses have been committed by litigant and profit-sharing lawyers. There are whole firms of American lawyers who are little better than professionals at the shake-down. Because litigation for damages is such highly profitable business, most trial lawyers are against reform: because the proposal is a Republican one, many Liberals are against it too. The actual proposals would bring American legal procedure closer to the British: unsuccessful litigants would have to pay costs. The Republicans are dealing with a real abuse, but Newt Gingrich had the propaganda skill to create the "apple pie" label.

He has a radical programme. "I will not rest", he said in 1991, "until I have transformed the landscape of American politics." In December 1994, after the Republican victory, he said "No society can survive, no civilisation can survive, with 12-year-olds having babies, with 15-year-olds killing each other, with 17-year-olds dying of Aids, with 18-year-olds getting diplomas they cannot read."

Sometimes he sounds apocalyptic. "People like me are what stands between us and Auschwitz. I see evil all around me every day . . . We are at the edge of losing this civilisation. You get two more generations of what we had for the last 20 years and we're in desperate trouble . . . as long as I believe that's true, I'll keep trying to recruit another generation and train another generation so that when I'm too tired to keep doing this, they'll be ready to step in."

This sounds somewhat hysterical. Of course, there is much evil in modern America, but it does not become any man to claim that he stands between America and Auschwitz. Yet this is how radical politicians do sometimes feel. It is the last part of that Newt Gingrich statement that may prove the most important. He made it early in 1994, before he had won the election, before he had become Speaker of the House: "I'll keep trying to recruit another generation and train another generation." He is doing just that.

Last Monday I had a long conversation with one of "Newt's children", the 73 Republican freshman in the new House of Representatives. He is Mark Stanford, who won his district in South Carolina with a majority of 55,000. He talks about Newt Gingrich in the same way that bright students talk about their most inspiring professors, with real admiration for his gifts as a teacher. Until 1978, Gingrich was on the faculty at West Georgia College, and the role suits him well.

I thought Mark Stanford very impressive. His background is in finance and economics. He has come into politics with a commitment to his constituents that he will serve a maximum of three terms (six years) in the House. He does not want to become another professional politician of the kind he believes to have failed America. He is an idealist who believes that only radical financial and economic reforms will allow the United States to remain an effective economic power in the next century. He believes in the "Contract with America", not because he is some sort of extremist, but for considered reasons which would appealed intellectually to Keith Joseph. In particular, he argues that saving is essential to investment, and investment is essential to economic growth. For this reason he wants America to move from taxation on income (which means taxing savings) to taxation on expenditure. This proposal could become one of the major propositions of a second contract with America. I think it will also become a central proposition in the next wave of British Conservative thinking, whenever that occurs.

"Newt's children" have set up an informal policy group for the freshmen in the House; usually about 20 of the 73 turn up for the meetings. The Republican freshmen were so idealistic that they send invitations to the freshman Democrats, though none of them in practice attends.

These meetings are an exciting forum, in which the policies which will follow the "Contract with America" are being discussed. These young Republicans are the future of their party; in 20 years' time, many of the 73 will have long been back in private life, fulfilling their pledges to term-limits for congressmen. But others will be in the Senate, the Cabinet, perhaps the White House. They are a powerful generation. "Newt's children" want to get the government off the backs of Americans and restore the concept of responsibility and enterprise.

I hope we shall see a crop of similar people — of "Maggie's grandchildren" — entering Conservative politics in Britain as well. Newt Gingrich is unlikely ever to become president of the United States, yet his ideas and his influence on his students are changing American politics to a greater degree than most presidents achieve.

In 1990 he accurately diagnosed his own character. "I am sort of the leading insider outsider. It is a very interesting question whether I am simply a noisier insider or still an outsider. You watch over the next few years and decide yourself."

The division in the United States, as in Britain, lies between active and passive conservatism. Newt Gingrich summed up his attitude to passive conservatives when he told *The Washington Post* in 1984 that Robert Dole was "the tax-collector of the welfare state". Two things are certain: in America active conservatism has won both Houses of Congress for the Republicans, and it has created a whole new class of young and energetic Republican candidates.

Europe's new empire

Ronald Butt says 'federalism' cloaks threats to freedom

The term "federalism" is distorting the debate about the future of Europe. It is used as political camouflage by those who want a strong central government for Europe, and who cite Germany or America as evidence that federations allow workable devolution. But in the United States and Germany fundamental policy is controlled by central governments which are both strong and democratically accountable. The entrenched secondary powers of the elected governments of the states and of the *Länder* are justified by their histories, political cultures and (in the American case) size. But the Germans and Americans are also true nations, sharing common languages and cultures, and voting as such for their federal governments.

America's executive President and Germany's Chancellor, though chosen by very different methods, derive their authority from and are accountable to their peoples. The Chancellor can be ejected by the Bundestag; the President can be put in check by a hostile Congress in mid-term and turned out of office at the next presidental election.

Were some such system feasible for a European Union, I should find it hard to oppose. I feel European — never more strongly than when driving freely over frontiers I first crossed in wartime. I want a sensible and democratic community of nations. But a central government for Europe cannot be made democratically accountable as national federal governments are. A democratic Union would be possible only if all its peoples could join in electing a prime ministerial or presidential chief executive and government, and then all accept the outcome as in national elections. And that is conceivable only in a nation with a shared language, common political culture and history, a sense of nationhood and a cohesive size. The EU fulfils none of these conditions.

In national democracies, the daily dialectic between government and opposition focuses argument and influences public opinion. Having a common language and political culture, the public can listen to the arguments and have informed opinions on policies and politicians. But it defies reason to suppose that this sort of public opinion could exist across a Union of some 20 states of many tongues and traditions and at different stages of economic development, stretching from Ireland to Eastern Europe, some with little experience of or inclination towards parliamentary democracy.

The virtual impossibility of finding an acceptable means of electing a federal chief executive and cabinet for so large and diverse a Union by universal suffrage seems to be implicitly recognised in the nearest thing we have to a federal "blueprint" for Europe, which does not even consider it. The paper recently presented to the Bundestag by the CDU/CSU group proposes that the European Commission should "take on features of a European government". It wants the European Parliament to take on the role of a legislature, with the law-making powers that the Council of (national) Ministers now enjoys. That council would be reduced to the position of a second chamber.

The "government of Europe" would thus be a nominated body, over which the European Parliament, even with enhanced powers, could not conceivably provide a sufficient democratic check. Nor could it defend national interests. If, for instance, a majority within a member state were in dispute, over a matter of fundamental importance to it, with the majority of states in the European Union, how could the people of the outnumbered state make their need felt?

The situation would be very different from that within democratic nation-states, where elections on the same question are fought in every constituency and the outcome is accepted by all. In the European Parliament, no Union-wide political party could effectively represent the interest of a particular nation at odds with the rest.

What is really on offer, under the guise of federalism, is a system under which the voter-sensitive politics of parliamentary democracy would atrophy and our liberties would be in danger. The prospect is one of entrenched and unaccountable bureaucratic imperialism. Its root-system is already established in Brussels, where the unelected politico-bureaucrats of the Commission initiate European law without the public ventilation of detail that goes on within parliamentary democracies. Nor are there accessible political mechanisms for the repeal of any Community legislation that proves unacceptable. If the poll tax had been enacted under EU legislation, it would still be law.

Present indications are that the future EU is more likely to resemble the Hapsburg or Ottoman empires than a democratic federal state. The question is not whether we should have federalism, but whether, lured by a federalist mirage, we surrender to the next European empire. We must not. It is not only our own ancient parliamentary liberties that are at risk, but the democratic institutions of every member state.

Peer's arrest

THE PRIME MINISTER'S parliamentary private secretary in the Lords has been taking the law into his own hands with some success. In a thrilling display of derring-do the other week, Lord McColl collared a car thief after a determined chase.

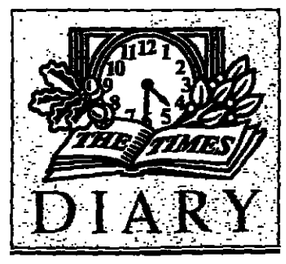
McColl is a professor of surgery at Guy's Hospital, and one of the architects of the Government's health reforms. He is a fit 62. I am reliably informed that he had just returned from a jog near his Dulwich home when he heard a tremendous crash outside and went to investigate.

"There in front of him was his neighbour's car, which had come through the fence," explains one of his colleagues. "Lord McColl rushed down to help the injured man, thinking he had a patient on his hands, only to find it wasn't his neighbour. A stranger burst from the car and fled down the road with Lord McColl in pursuit."

The thief didn't get far. Our hero lowered his head and charged. As his quarry launched himself at a wall and scrambled desperately to haul himself over, the good lord grabbed hold of his dangling legs and yanked. The hoodlum crumpled to the ground. McColl sat on him and placed him under citizen's arrest. His spirit broken, the culprit abandoned any thought of struggling and awaited the arrival of the boys in blue, who led him away.

McColl appeared too modest to discuss his brave deed yesterday. "But he's a terribly nice chap," says a friend. "He's super-fit and very quick on his feet, a kind of Roger Bannister type. I think he was quite pleased with himself."





● *In Court 11 at the Old Bailey today, a Mr Gordon Jeeves is due to stand trial. Next door in Court 12, sentence will be passed on a Mr Terry Wooster.*

Best boot

THERE ARE some who judge Tony Blair a fair-weather fan of Newcastle United Football Club. However, none could doubt the commitment of his press secretary, Alastair Campbell, to the game in general or to his beloved Burnley in particular.

He was top scorer in a celebrity soccer trivia quiz organised by next month's *GQ* magazine. While Martin Amis and the pulchritudinous managing director of Birmingham City, Karren Brady, answered only seven out of 28 questions correctly, Campbell hit the mark 18 times.

The magazine says he was "fiercely competitive . . . but showed signs of a suspect temperament. Questioned the ref's decision and used the f-word when struggling to recall answers. On the afternoon of Prime Minister's Question Time, [he] paged us twice to arrange to take part."

● *Lord Tebbit took the chair at the Foyles lunch yesterday to celebrate the publication of former headmaster and education minister Sir Rhodes Boyson's autobiography,* Speaking My Mind. *"I am sure if he had ever seen my homework for marking, my friend Rhodes would have given me a B-minus," he said.*

Axed

A SURPRISE announcement on Tuesday's *News at Ten* came from Trevor McDonald: Alan Clark had resigned from the Government, he said, even though the former minister actually left in 1992.

As soon as he had said "Clark", McDonald realised his mistake. He had meant Allan Stewart, the pickaxe-brandishing Scottish minister who resigned after an incident with motorway protesters.

But yesterday, Alan Clark, who did not see the bulletin, admitted it could have been him: "Looking at that rabble of protesters I would have used the pickaxe. I would have laid into them."

Amery's end

THE RELEASE of wartime documents on Tuesday shed further light on the life of John Amery, who was hanged for treason after pleading guilty in December 1945. What was not revealed, however, was that he narrowly escaped death just after his capture in Italy earlier that year. John Cowe, a major with the Royal Artillery in Italy at the time, was recalled to England in July and tells of his encounter with the traitor.

"I was most surprised to see a civilian in the front seat of the plane handcuffed to his neighbour," he remembers. "Our plane came down and crashed in France, in Hyères, near Marseilles. When we scrambled out I realised it was Amery. He was lucky his number didn't come up then."

Branching out

JOHN MAJOR's son James is fleeing the nest. He is to leave the family home in Great Stukeley, near Huntingdon for the first time because of a change of job.

The 19-year-old Marks & Spencer management trainee has worked at the firm's Cambridge store for 13 months, but is now to take a £12,000-a-year post in the Norwich branch, 65 miles away.

"After general training in Cambridge, he will be concentrating on one particular aspect of management in Norwich," says a spokeswoman. "We do not mind where our trainees live as long as they present themselves for work. Their private lives are their own business."



Major Minor: moving on

P·H·S

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES — FUTURE

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

Time to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act

The Republic of Ireland's decision to lift its state of emergency provisions is an important symbolic moment in the peace process. By voting to do so, the Dail has sent a signal to the men of violence in the North that it expects the paramilitary ceasefires to hold. The British Government should respond with caution and an open mind.

Dublin's gesture is less radical, and more shrewd, than might be thought. Eamon de Valera's Offences Against the State Act of 1939 remains in place; the Irish authorities still have the power to intern without trial, confiscate property, ban organisations, publications and meetings, and set up non-jury courts. The South, in other words, has indicated its faith in the ceasefires without surrendering its core powers to defend the peace should the truce break down.

The risk that this might happen at any time was made clear by the discovery in Newry on Tuesday of a Semtex bomb. John Major's apparent reluctance to repeal or relax the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) is wholly understandable. Last March, its provisions were renewed by the Commons against the background of the IRA's mortar attack on Heathrow and an extraordinary attempt by Labour to wreck the bipartisan consensus on the need for such measures. To repeal the law before the paramilitaries hand over their weapons would be an act of great irresponsibility. There is nonetheless a strong case for its careful amendment.

In its current form, the act enables the Northern Ireland Secretary to proscribe organisations connected with terrorism and to issue exclusion orders removing a suspect from Northern Ireland or the mainland. Police may arrest suspects without warrant and detain them without charge for 48 hours or seven days with the Secretary of State's permission. It is illegal to raise money for proscribed groups or to conceal information related to terrorist offences from the police.

These arrangements are essentially sound. But there is scope for a gradual relaxation as the peace process continues. First, the right of the police to detain should be modified. The provision that enables officers to hold suspects for two days without charge should be retained. But there is no longer a need for the Secretary of State's additional power to detain a suspected terrorist for a further five days. For the Government to yield this authority would be a helpful step which would not restrict unduly the powers of the security forces.

Secondly, exclusion orders should be made subject to some form of judicial scrutiny. Such decisions by the executive could be made liable to judicial review; alternatively, the approval of a magistrate could become a condition of any exclusion order. As long as the ceasefires hold, the distinction would make little practical difference. But as a sign of the British Government's good will it would be well received in the Province.

In the wake of last week's disclosures about the joint framework document, Unionists and their supporters on the Conservative back benches must not appear entirely resistant to sensible and justified change. Terrorism distorts civil society, forcing it to take radical measures to restrict freedom. To restore conditions of normality step by step need not be a process of appeasement. It ought, in practice, to be a liberating experience for a society that has suffered. A year ago, there was a case for stronger security measures. Today, the circumstances of the Province have changed considerably. The Government should not be afraid to amend the law accordingly.

NATO'S CLAES WAR

A new Secretary-General in search of a new bogey

Willy Claes — who secured his job only because his fellow Belgian Jean-Luc Dehaene failed in his bid for the presidency of the European Commission — has just revealed an intention to forge new links between Nato and North Africa. The conviction that he is the wrong man for the post of Secretary-General of Nato, widely expressed at the time of his selection barely five months ago, will now be strengthened.

These links would make North Africa a central focus for Nato's strategic arrangements. Their proposal stems from Mr Claes's belief that "Muslim fundamentalism is now as big a threat to the alliance as communism once was". He has taken his cue from, among others, Samuel Huntington, the political scientist from Harvard who wrote in 1993 in *Foreign Affairs* of "the clash of civilisations".

There can be no doubt that North Africa is a powerful source of worry. The remorseless civil war in Algeria, in particular, has provoked in neighbouring European countries both fierce political debates as well as fears of large-scale immigration. France and Spain, charged respectively with the presidency of the European Union in 1995, are rightly seeking to make North Africa an issue of continent-wide concern. Why should all eyes be focused on Poland, they argue, and not on Algeria? And why is the economic integration with the EU of, say, the Czech Republic, of greater strategic import than a more equitable trade accommodation with Morocco?

The answer here is not to deny that North Africa poses problems for Europe. But the contemporary challenge of "fundamentalism" is less about direct threats to other countries than it is about the implications for the West of social unrest within North African societies. These are appropriate — even necessary — questions for the EU to address; they are, quite categorically, not appropriate questions for Nato.

In losing an identifiable adversary after the Cold War, Nato's role has been called into question by elected politicians and strategic planners alike. Yet there is no doubt that Nato is the only institution in the post-Cold War world with the political and military capacity to meet new challenges effectively. The traditional strengths of the alliance will be further endangered if its secretariat seems to be selecting new challenges without due care. North Africa makes complex demands with which Nato is not equipped to deal: the "threat" from the region is caused, in major part, by the regimes of the region themselves. The Islamic movements in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, however violent, are powerful and populist movements: "political Islam" has become the dominant idiom in which resistance to corrupt and unelected governments is expressed.

It is precisely because the problems of North Africa are so grave that the response of the West needs to be more refined than that envisaged by Mr Claes. A better way to deal with the "threat" from the Maghreb than ranging military force against it — or deploying force in support of the region's regimes — would be for the EU to ensure that the economies of the region are integrated with those of its richer neighbours to the north. Even this will yield scarce fruit if the regimes of North Africa continue to be unrepresentative of their people and unaccountable to them.

CLASSROOM VALUES

Local pay bargaining could end the deadlock over schools

It has long been a promise of Conservative Education Secretaries to devolve power over schools from hated left-wing local politicians and bureaucrats to public-spirited volunteer governors and teachers. There is less confidence in that claim today. Now that schools are faced with real cuts in their budgets of up to 6 per cent this year, many active citizens in charge of the schools (often natural Tories) are threatening to resign or to set illegal budgets. The militant members of teaching unions and the town hall followers of Derek Hatton are able to sit back and watch.

These dissident Tories have much on their side. Although some schools have built up reserves for rainy days (and they do not come much rainier than this), others, which have done what they were told by spending their money on good teachers and equipment, are being penalised. There is little obvious fat to cut: teachers' salaries account for between 80 and 90 per cent of a school's budget and the remainder of the costs, such as electricity, caretaking or books, are relatively fixed too.

Comparisons with the private sector are tricky. Most teachers work extremely hard and have increased their productivity since testing and the national curriculum were introduced. Buildings are hardly lavish: inspectors are always complaining about leaky roofs and shoddy premises. Moreover, schools which have managed to retain loyal and experienced staff have to spend more on salaries which, unlike in a private company, cannot be recouped in higher profits, only in the intangible benefit of better teaching.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has been overruled by the Treasury. She gave warning that the effect of a punitive settlement would be teacher redundancies and higher class sizes. Now she is trying to put a brave face on the result, calling for reserves to be run down and surplus school places to be cut. She is right about the former, though that does not help schools without reserves. The extra school places, however, are not such an obvious target. They are spread thinly among many schools. Moreover, they will be needed, both to allow increased parental choice and to soak up the rising school population that is now working its way through primary school.

This settlement has been sprung on the education system. There is room for further rationalisation, both in local authority bureaucracy and in the distribution of schools. But none of this can be done by April. The system of funding schools is far too rigid. The Government cannot expect to set a national pay rise for teachers, then to give schools too little money to pay for it, and finally to forbid local authorities from raising more money to make up the shortfall.

One way out of the dilemma would be to relax the council tax caps which prevent local authorities from seeking extra funds. In the long term, however, the Government must move towards local pay bargaining. This would enable schools to compete in the job market for the best teachers within the budgetary constraints set by central government and town halls. It would be a far better form of devolution and one which would give governors true flexibility to hire and fire. If they wish to avoid a ritual row over pay every year, ministers must embrace such a system without delay.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

City's views on single currency

From Mr Rodney Leach and others

Sir, It will not do to dismiss doubts about European monetary union (reports, February 4, 6; leading article, February 6) by claiming wide support from the business and financial community.

Not only has world trade flourished remarkably since 1945 between countries with variable (and since the 1970s mostly floating) currencies. But even if the natural core of European federalist countries were tied into the ecu, by far the larger part of Britain's trade and investment would continue to be conducted outside those countries in a wide variety of national currencies.

Plainly, a single currency is not indispensable to expanding exports, whether visible or invisible, both in the wider world and within the European single market which we all support. Leaving aside legitimate *political* contention about national sovereignty, a realistic *economic* judgment must turn on far more searching questions than those raised by the proponents of monetary union.

For example, before any country abandons its national money, it should ask firstly: in the absence of adjustments in exchange rates and domestic interest rates, how are contrasting national economies to adjust to differential changes in growth, efficiency, and other unforeseeable disturbances? And secondly, how far is a currency accountable to assorted national parliaments likely to shun inflation as resolutely as, say, the Bundesbank — or Britain since leaving the ERM?

Might political supporters of a single currency henceforth cease taking the name of business and the City in vain and start confronting and debating the real issues?

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
ANTHONY COWGILL,
MICHAEL EDWARDES,
OWEN GREEN,
HANSON,
HARRIS of HIGH CROSS,
DANIEL HODSON,
STANLEY KALMS,
EMMANUEL KAYE,
BRIAN KEELAN,
BRIAN KINGHAM,
JOHN MANSER,
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS,
CHRISTOPHER WATES,
GARRY WESTON,
BRIAN WILLIAMSON,
STANISLAS YASSUKOVICH,
3 Lombard Street, EC3.
February 8.

Education cuts

From Mr Paul Cann and others

Sir, Unless central and local government can between them find additional money for education (reports, February 8 etc), one large group for which so much has been promised recently will be hurt: the one-and-a-half million schoolchildren with special educational needs.

When the Government consulted in 1993 on a new code of practice to improve the deal for such children, the special needs organisations were encouraged by the open, receptive style of ministers and officials. The outcome of this dialogue was a welcome blueprint which offers a real opportunity to identify and support children with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities.

It was always going to be hard to make the code happen without extra resources. If school budgets are now forced into reverse a wonderful opportunity to enhance the lives of our most disadvantaged children will be squandered.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CANN
(British Dyslexia Association),
NORMA CORKISH
(AFASIC, Overcoming Speech Impairments),
SUSAN DANIELS
(National Deaf Children's Society),
PAUL ENNALS
(Royal National Institute for the Blind),
FRED HEDDELL
(MENCAP),
BRIAN LAMB
(SCOPE, formerly The Spastics Society).
98 London Road, Reading, Berkshire.
February 8.

Role of Church music

From Mr I. H. Stout

Sir, Despite being a practising Anglican, I fear that I have very little idea of what a parish evangelist is, or indeed does (Mr Paul Hamilton's letter, January 20); but it would appear that the duties require little understanding or recognition of the matchless heritage of English church music, and its role throughout the ages of bringing people to faith.

While I am glad that newcomers to Mr Hamilton's church find worship enjoyable, many contemplative people are content rather to meditate on the mystic, sacramental and redemptive power of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as revealed in music. It is this which the greatest English composers, such as Tallis and Byrd, understood.

Yours faithfully,
IAN STOUT,
16 East Common, Redbourn,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

The Oxford entrance exam. Discuss.

From Dr G. D. W. Smith

Sir, Your leader on the Oxford entrance examination ("Selective argument", February 4) shows the polished turn of phrase and occasional flash of brilliance which might be well received in the examination itself. However, it would probably not fare quite so well as a tutorial essay, as it is long on assertion and somewhat short on analysis.

The facts are these. More than 85 per cent of all pupils in this country attend state schools. Yet Oxford admits more students from independent schools than from the state sector. Thus either there is an immense disparity in talent between state and independent sectors, or the current Oxford entrance procedures are failing to deliver the goods.

Feedback from schools is overwhelmingly clear. State school teachers tell us that they do not have the time or the resources to prepare a small minority of their pupils for a special entrance examination which is being set by only one university. The very existence of this examination is a deterrent to many potential applicants from the state sector. That is the reason for the current debate.

Lord Bullock once said that one of the great strengths of Oxford was its immense capacity for self-renewal. As part of its preparation for the next century, the university has to re-examine many of the ways in which it conducts itself. The entrance examination is just one of the issues which need to be addressed. We must find ways of attracting the most able, and not just the most privileged, of young people to our institution.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE SMITH,
Trinity College, Oxford.
February 5.

From Mr I. L. Riley

Sir, Your editorial comment about the Oxford entrance exam is very accurate. As the head of mathematics in a comprehensive school of medium size in an area traditionally associated with industries either extinct or in decline, I have found that our Oxford candidates respond well to the system of entry by exam as they can approach the subsequent interview heralded by the hard, if possibly rather patchy, evidence of their potential brilliance. This primary evidence would not be available from A and S-level scripts.

The exam already completed leaves them feeling that they can compete against others with possibly more self-confidence and sophisticated social and presentational skills derived from family and educational tradition (as many of our pupils see it). There is a sense of equality and fairness even in the face of rejection. It is the availability of this Oxford system which encourages students to apply there rather than to other universities.

Additionally, the entrance exam encourages earlier academic development and the discovery by students of their own abilities, even amongst those not offered places. It concentrates the mind wonderfully but is, in my experience, ultimately less stressful to students than a waiting time of eight months to find out whether their A-level results are AAA (happiness) or AAB (misery).

Yours sincerely,
IAN RILEY,
The Shambles, 51a Common Lane,
Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire.
February 6.

From Mr Adrian Williams

Sir, In the pre-1963 era, as I recall, one Oxford college challenged the candidate's imaginative brain with the superbly crafted question: "Is this a question?"

The response (not mine, alas) that won the examiners' approbation was, "If it is, this is the answer."

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN WILLIAMS,
28 Trinity Street, St Ebbes, Oxford.
February 6.

Floods caused by mismanagement

From Professor Roy Ward

Sir, Your correspondent Roger Boyes raises some important issues about the flood hazard (report, February 3). River floods are natural events. In their natural state river channels can carry only a fraction of the flows occuring during floods so that the remainder must spill on to the floodplain.

The channels and their adjacent floodplains are therefore complementary and together form the proper natural conveyance for the transmission of floodwaters. In many cases even major floods simply spill their waters on to unoccupied floodplains or "washlands" where they do little damage and may be beneficial, as in arid areas, where irrigation and soil fertilisation may depend on the natural flooding of rivers.

Floods constitute a "hazard" only where human encroachment into flood-prone areas has occurred. The tragedy in low-lying countries like Bangladesh, where such encroachment is inevitable, is that the economic cost of even quite modest protection against flooding is too high.

The near-tragedy experienced in The Netherlands appears to have resulted from a combination of upstream "eco-brutality", which exacerbated flood peaks on the Rhine and its tributaries, and downstream "eco-sentimentality", which prevented expenditure on renewing and improving existing protection schemes.

Both eco-brutality and eco-sentimentality result largely from the tunnel vision of "single-issue" activists, in development on the one hand, and conservation on the other. The flood hazard will only be addressed effectively by integrated programmes which take into account all the relevant factors within a river basin.

Yours truly,
ROY WARD
64 Newbiggin,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
February 3.

Forth Bridge future

From the Director of Railtrack Scotland

Sir, Magnus Linklater's article on the Forth Bridge ("Are we letting Britain's greatest bridge rot?", February 3) was characteristically erudite and lyrical. However he seemed to suggest that its future was in question because it was not being properly maintained. Happily this is not the case.

The bridge carries 200 trains per day at 50mph. This is a vast improvement on the 20mph restriction imposed in the early 1990s due to worn and splitting tracks. This improvement is thanks to a £3 million investment completely re-railing the bridge. Our commitment to its future could not be clearer.

The state of the bridge is assessed by experts in a wide range of engineering disciplines. The Health and Safety Executive has examined these assessments and declared itself satisfied with both the structural integrity of the bridge and our maintenance programme. There has been no reduction in the level of maintenance since Railtrack became responsible for the bridge.

Public opinion published in the Scottish press points to the fact that people want to see even more done for the bridge as a "national monument". The Scottish Office itself seems to share the belief: as Lord James Douglas-Hamilton suggested last week, one possibility might be to set up a charitable trust. Perhaps in this way the nation will be able to express its commitment to the bridge.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL PRESCOTT,
Director, Railtrack Scotland,
Railtrack PLC, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow.
February 7.

From Professor P. W. Jowitt

Sir, Magnus Linklater's concerns for the Forth Bridge are well-founded. Although he refers to the Forth Bridge as "an extraordinary monument to Britain's engineering skills", it will only become a monument at the moment it ceases to function. For the time being it is a living engineering structure: a triumph of form and function on a massive scale.

Sooner or later the bridge's rusting and deteriorating condition will have serious structural implications. Once these set in, they will be difficult to arrest. If the Forth Bridge is allowed to become a rusted steel filigree then its whole raison d'être vanishes, and with it the vital artery of the rail network north of the Forth.

Railtrack's maintenance budget for the bridge clearly reflects a short-term view of the post-privatisation revenue from rail services to the north of Scotland. In the absence of any sensible national transport strategy, those prospects are poor. Railtrack's view that painting the bridge is a cosmetic job is patently absurd. Their claims that they are doing what is necessary to keep the bridge structurally sound are simply not credible, and will remain so until a full and independent engineering study is commissioned by the Scottish Office and the Department of Transport.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL W. JOWITT
(Chairman, Edinburgh and East of Scotland Association of the Institution of Civil Engineers),
Heriot-Watt University,
Department of Civil and Offshore Engineering,
Riccarton, Edinburgh 1.

From Mr David Shelton

Sir, Your reference to some mythical object called the "Forth Rail Bridge", is a gaffe on a par with calling the world's greatest golf tournament the "British" Open. There is only one Forth Bridge. The *other* is respectfully titled the "Forth Road Bridge".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHELTON,
2 Spire Court, Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr R. C. Mitchell-Heggs

Sir, In your report on the state of dilapidation of the Forth Bridge you highlighted reasons why it could not be repainted in the traditional manner.

Today you carry a photograph of the seven-yearly facelift that is beginning on the Eiffel Tower.

Is there a message for us here?

Yours faithfully,
R. C. MITCHELL-HEGGS,
29 Cloncurry Street, SW6.
February 8.

Not tonight

From Commander B. D. B. Gresham, RN (retd)

Sir, Those proposing the toast "To the immortal memory of Admiral Lord Nelson" at Trafalgar Night dinners always have a problem. Some, in the interests of propriety and naval discipline, gloss over Nelson's infatuation with Emma, Lady Hamilton. Others, of a broader frame of mind, make much of it, usually to the delight of those foreign guests not already familiar with the story.

But now Mary Wilson tells us ("This could be thine, dear Valentine", Homes, February 8) that Nelson reputedly bought a thatched house in Ibsley, Hampshire, "for his mistress, Josephine"! Tell us more and tell us quickly. It is barely eight months to the next Trafalgar Night and many oft-repeated speeches are going to need complete revision.

Yours faithfully,
B. D. B. GRESHAM,
10 Lower Brook Street,
Oswestry, Shropshire.
February 9.

Must try harder

From Mrs Liz Young

Sir, My daughter's school needlework project was a cookery apron, and the finished garment was marked thus: "C+. Neatness and accuracy are 2 skills which you must practise."

I was suitably indignant. Especially since I'd done most of the wretched thing myself.

Yours faithfully,
LIZ YOUNG,
13 Cotswold Close,
Kingston on Thames, Surrey.
February 8.

Injured by animals

From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, Your report (February 7) on the successful claim for damages to a walker injured by cows creates an alarming precedent.

I keep horses on a couple of small fields, flanked by a footpath, and the only way I could ensure the safety of walkers would be to fence the path adequately.

Similar action could result in paths becoming alleyways between fences, with the resultant decline in their recreational value. Should there not be an acceptance of some minimal risk from livestock while out walking?

Yours sincerely,
PHIL RIDGWAY,
27 Naverne Meadows,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.
February 7.

Custody of Ashes

From Mr Renzo Scacco

Sir, As an Antipodean now resident in England, I am thoroughly perplexed as to why the MCC continues to retain the Ashes trophy given the results of the last four Test series between our respective countries.

The legal definition of theft is "to permanently deprive someone of their property". Surely the results in recent years conclusively establish the Ashes as Australia's lawful property.

Yours sincerely,
RENZO SCACCO,
21 Wimbledon Close,
The Downs,
Wimbledon, SW20.
February 8

Sports letters, page 45

Small change

From Mr Eric Sassoon

Sir, This morning you quote from a Royal Mint survey that £42 million in loose change has disappeared from circulation (News in brief, February 2). This evening, by feeling down the sides of my armchair I retrieved £3.65. If all your readers were to check their armchairs, is it possible that a useful proportion of this missing money could be back in circulation next week?

Yours sincerely,
ERIC SASSOON,
15 Viceroy Court,
Didsbury, Manchester.
February 2.

Advice from the top

From Mr Paul Eddington

Sir, In the light of the current furore over your revelations of a Government document I feel that I should share with you — with his permission — a letter which I have received today from my distinguished contemporary, Jim Hacker. It is written from the House of Lords:

Dear Paul, In those distant days of wine and roses when I was Prime Minister, I remember an occasion on which I was myself very troubled by a "leak". Sir Humphry Appleby advised me then that, though courageous, it might nevertheless be unwise to set up an inquiry. "It could succeed in finding the culprit", he said, and he added, rather mysteriously I thought, that the Ship of State was unique in maritime circles in that it was the only vessel that leaked from the top. Yours ever, Hacker.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL EDDINGTON,
c/o ICM Ltd,
76 Oxford Street, WC1.
February 7.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 8: His Excellency Señor Jorge Borbón Zeller was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Costa Rica to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señor Juan Salas (Consul and Minister Counsellor), Señora Ines Trejos (Minister Counsellor) and Señor Jorge Montero (Minister Counsellor).

Señora de Borbón was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Air Commodore Peter Millar was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Commander British Forces Cyprus and Administrator Sovereign Base Area Cyprus.

Her Majesty held a Council at 12.30 pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting), the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP (Secretary of State for Defence), the Rt Hon Richard Needham MP (Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry) and the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley MP (Minister without Portfolio).

The Lord Ampthill, Sir Robin Auld, Mr Michael Forsyth MP, Sir Philip Otton and Sir Malcolm Pill were sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

The Federal President of the Republic of Austria visited The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and remained to Luncheon.

The following were invited: the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr Edith Mock, His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria and Mrs Hennig and Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs).

Her Majesty invested The Federal President of the Republic of Austria with the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

February 8: The Princess Royal today visited Birmingham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this morning visited the Sense shop, 227 Coventry Road, Sheldon.

The Princess Royal later opened the new West Midlands Police Sports and Social Club, Police Training Centre, Pershore Road, Edgbaston.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended the Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" at the Hippodrome, Hurst Street.

Lady Carew Pole was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the premiere of "Black Beauty" in aid of the British Equestrian Olympic Fund at the Warner West End Cinema, Leicester Square, London WC2.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 8: The Prince of Wales today visited Manchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Salvation Army Drop-in Centre, Grosvenor Street, Medlock.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Corpus Christi Centre, Varley Street, Miles Platting.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon presented the Community Enterprise Awards at Granada Television, Water Street.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Great Hall, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Sackville Street, and met students involved with the Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology's post-graduate training partnerships.

Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 8: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Armouries Development Trust, this morning visited the Jewel House, Her Majesty's Tower of London, London EC3.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, this afternoon attended a presentation, the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

Captain Alexander Tetley was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent this evening received Honorary Fellowship of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Birdcage Walk, London SW1.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will present The Queen's Anniversary prizes for Higher and Further Education at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of London University will also attend.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of Opportunities for People with Disabilities, will attend the World Young Business Achievers luncheon at the Hyatt Carlton Tower hotel at 1.00; as President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, will attend the City and Guilds College Association's annual dinner at Carpenters' Hall at 7.15.

The Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Purcell Tercentenary Festival, will attend a concert performance of *Dido and Aeneas* given by The King's Consort at the Wigmore Hall at 7.30.

Prince Edward will attend the Lady Taverners reception at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will attend the London Interseason show at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, at 2.30; and, as Chancellor of London University, will attend a dinner at Guildhall at 6.55 in honour of the Royal Anniversary Trust's higher and further education prize winning institutions.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Honorary Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company, will be attend the opening proceedings of the Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall at 10.45.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the National Missing Persons Helpline, will visit the offices at Roebuck House, 284-286 Richmond Road West, SW14, at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Swada (London) at Sugar House Lane at 9.55; and will visit Kessler International, Worton Road, Stratford, at 11.25.

Scars tell of struggle to survive 110 million years ago

Dinosaur showed backbone for fight

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE remains of a dinosaur that successfully fought off an attack from a carnivorous cousin have been unearthed on the Isle of Wight.

The victim was an iguanadon, a herbivorous dinosaur that was one of the commonest inhabitants of Europe between 130 and 110 million years ago. Its discoverer, fossil-hunter John Winch, 26, found that one of the creature's vertebrae showed evidence of having been broken, and then fused together again in a deformed shape.

"The position of the vertebrae shows that this iguanadon must have had its spine bent right out of position in what was probably an attack by a flesh-eating predator," he says. "The massive break appears too severe and unusual to have come from a fall."

The vertebra is eight inches in diameter, indicating that the iguanadon must have been a large one, probably around 30ft long. The species lacked much in the way of defensive equipment, but probably attempted to fight off its unknown attacker with its large spiked thumb.

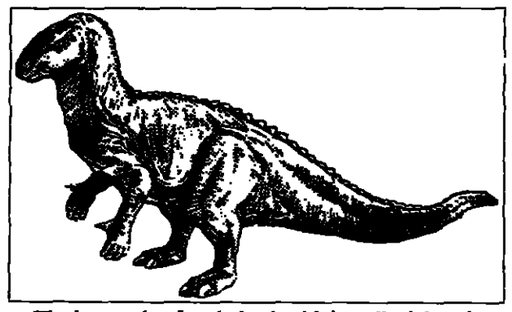
No evidence has been found to identify the creature that did the damage, but it is likely to have been one of the carnosaurs that flourished at the time. It would not have been the best-known flesh-eater, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which did not evolve until much later.

Steve Hutt, curator of the island's geological museum at Sandown, said: "This is a fabulous vertebra and shows how this creature must have lived through great trauma for a long while after suffering injury. It is extremely unusual to find a broken dinosaur bone of this nature, let alone one that has fused together in such a way."

HEATH BRETT



Fossil-hunter John Winch with the deformed vertebra from a badly injured iguanadon that he discovered on the Isle of Wight



The iguanadon fought back with its spiked thumb

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.J.W. Byng and Miss A.J. Scott
The engagement is announced between Patrick, second son of Mr and Mrs Julian Byng, and Anna, daughter of Sir Kenneth Scott and the late Mrs Gabrielle Scott.

Mr A.M. Cleeve and Miss P.A. Minshull
The engagement is announced between Alexander Michie, second son of Mr and Mrs John Cleeve, of Cowden, Kent, and Philippa Ann, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Ray Minshull, of Loxwood, West Sussex.

Mr G. Kinnings and Miss R.M. Fimister
The engagement is announced between Guy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Terence Kinnings, of Shrewsbury, and Rebecca, younger daughter of the late Mr Malcolm Fimister and of Mrs Fimister, of Fencott-on-Otmoor, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J. Marshall and Miss S.E. Applin
The engagement is announced between Cameron, younger son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Marshall, of Sandal, Wakefield, and Sia, daughter of the late Mr Kenneth Applin and of Mrs Applin, of Kingston Vale, London, SW15.

Mr R.F. Milbank and Miss A.C. von der Heyde
The engagement is announced between Robert Frederick, eldest son of Mr Mark Milbank and Mrs Fran Milbank, of Wedza, Zimbabwe, and Amanda Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin von der Heyde, of Vigila, Mvurwi, Zimbabwe.

Mr G.T. Palmer and Miss M.G.A. Carlisle
The engagement is announced between Guy, younger son of Mr Richard Palmer, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Fiona Barnes, of Highgate, London, and Maxine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carlisle, of Great Bookham, Surrey.

Mr J. Martin and Miss C-L. Philpott
The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs John Martin, of Chislehurst, Kent and Orlando, USA, and Charlotte-Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Philpott, of Tonbridge, Kent.

Mr D. Palmer and Miss B. Hurst
The engagement was announced on February 3, 1995, between David, youngest son of Mr G.A. Palmer and Mrs G. Watson, and Bettina, youngest daughter of Mrs N. Hurst.

Mr T.H. Trafford and Miss S.M. Stirling
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Trafford, of Monckswood, Devon, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stirling, of Garden, Stirlingshire.

Mr L.T. Wood and Miss S.B. Geering
The engagement is announced between Leslie, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Wood, of North Shields, Tyne and Wear, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Geering, of Bath.

Marriages

Mr E.L. Davies and Miss P.A. Molyneux
The marriage took place on February 4, 1995, in Beverley, East Yorkshire, between Leslie Davies and Pauline Molyneux, both of North Ferriby, North Humberside.

Mr S.F. McCausland and Miss S-A. Wong
The marriage took place on May 25, 1994, between Shane Francis, younger son of the late Marcus Edgcumbe McCausland and of Mrs Peter Welsh, of Drenagh, Limavady, and Sarah-Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George A-S. Wong, of Las Mandarinas, Mijas, Spain. A service of blessing will take place in June.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Henry Harrison, 9th American President 1841, Berkeley, Virginia, 1773; Edward Carson, 1st Baron Carson, lawyer and leader of the Irish Unionist Party, Dublin, 1854; Anthony Hope (pseudonym of Sir Anthony Hope Hopkins), novelist, London, 1863; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, London, 1865; Amy Lowell, poet and critic, Brookline, Massachuetts, 1874; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1885; Jim Laker, cricketer, Bradford, 1922; Brendan Behan, writer, Dublin, 1923.

DEATHS: John Hooper, Bishop of Worcester, burnt at the stake, Gloucester, 1555; Benjamin Martin, mathematician, London, 1782; Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal 1765-1811, Greenwich, 1811; Henry Gally Knight, architect and writer, London, 1846; Fyodor Dostoyevsky, novelist, Leningrad, 1881; Johann Barthold Jongkind, painter, Côte-St-André, France, 1891; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, Wellington, New Zealand, 1938; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Capri, 1952; Bill Haley, rock and roll singer, Harlingen, Texas, 1981; Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party 1982-84, Moscow, 1984.

The first recorded race meeting in England was held at Roodee Fields, Chester, 1540.

Lord Darnley, Consort of Mary Queen of Scots, was murdered in Edinburgh, 1567.

Aeroflot, the Russian state airline, was formed, 1923.

The British Government declared a state of emergency following a month long miners' strike, 1972.

Birthdays today

Mr Norman Adams, painter and ceramic sculptor, 68; the Countess of Airlie, 62; Mr Brian Bennett, Shadows' drummer, 55; Mr Ryland Davies, tenor, 52; Air Commandant B.M. Ducat-Amos, former director, RAF Nursing Service, 74; Miss Mia Farrow, actress, 50; Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 69; Mr Paul Flynn, MP, 60; Mr Bernard Gallacher, golfer, 46; Dr George Guest, organist, 71; Mr Justice Johnson, 62; Mr Ben E. King, singer, 53; Mr Sandy Lyle, golfer, 37; Sir Donald Miller, former chairman, ScottishPower, 68; Dame Annette Penhaligon, 49; Miss Amanda Roocroft, opera singer, 29; Professor M.J.H. Sterling, Vice-Chancellor, Brunel University, 49; Mr Gordon Strachan, footballer, 38; Miss Janet Suzman, actress, 56; Mr Clive Swift, actor, 59; Mr Brian Wenham, media consultant and journalist, 58; Lord Williams of Elvel, 62.

Church news

The Rev Dr Edward Norman to be Canon Treasurer of York Minster, in succession to the Rev Ralph Mayland who retired last April. Dr Norman, 56, is Dean of Christ Church College, Canterbury.

Memorial services

Major-General Norman Foster
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Norman Leslie Foster was held yesterday at Seale Parish Church, Farnham. The Rev N.S. McGregor officiated and the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt led the prayers. Mr Christopher Foster, son, read *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. Colonel Tom Haywood gave an address.

Mrs Resy Peake
Requiem Mass for Mrs Resy Peake was celebrated by Father Wilfrid Tighe at Brompton Oratory yesterday. Mr David Peake, son, read the lesson.

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Professor P.G. Moore, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented awards to City and Guilds vocational education students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. The Master, Wardens and Court also received Mr Paul Wates, Chairman of City and Guilds, other representatives of City and Guilds and Mr T. Boswell, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Further and Higher Education, Department of Education. Sir Bryan Nicholson also spoke.

Dinners

Royal College of Surgeons
The Speaker was the principal guest and speaker at the Hunterian dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Sir Norman Browse, president, was in the chair. Sir Christopher Paine, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mr Alan Lettin, Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, also spoke. Earlier, Professor John Alexander-Williams, vice-president of the college, delivered the Hunterian Oration.

London Goodenough Trust
Sir Christopher Wates, Vice-Chairman of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr David Emms, director, received the guests at the annual Hilary term dinner held last night at London House for residents of London House and William Goodenough House. Among those present were:

The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Lord MacLehose of Beoch, Lord and Lady Marlesford, Lord and Lady Peyton of Yeovil, the Hon Sir Humphrey and Lady Maud, Lady Wates, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter and Lady Duffell, Lady French, Sir John and Lady Fretwell, Sir Peter and Lady Marshall, Sir James and Lady Swaffield, Mr Alderman Roger Cork, Mr Frank Dobson, MP, and Mrs Dobson, Mr and Mrs A D Loehnis and Mr and Mrs A L Robinson.

Service luncheon

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Layard were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday onboard the flagship *HMS Victory* in Portsmouth for the Chairmen of the Boards of Trustees and the Directors of the various Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Marines Museums.

Service dinner

Oxford University Air Squadron
Lord Plant of Highfield, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden, Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Oxford University Air Squadron held last night at the squadron's headquarters, Oxford. Squadron Leader J E Robinson, Commanding Officer, presided.

Lord Campbell of Eskan

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of the Lord Campbell of Eskan will be held in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey at noon on Wednesday, March 22. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 22, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on March 8. All are welcome.

Lady Blake

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lady Blake will be held on Saturday, March 4, at 3pm in the Chapel of The Queen's College, Oxford.

Clifford Graham

A service to celebrate the life and work of Cliff Graham will be held on Thursday, March 2, 1995, at noon in the Chapel of King's College London, the Strand, WC2. Further information from the Principal's Office, KCL.

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We give thanks to you, O God, we give you thanks; your name is brought very near to us in the account of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 75 : 1 (REB)

BIRTHS

CARY - To Linda, wife of Hon. Lucius Alexander Cary, Master of Falkland, on February 6th, in Los Angeles, a son.

COLLIER-JONES - On 22nd January at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda Jones and Stephen Collier, a son, Edward Ian Emmanuel. Thanks be to God.

COULTES - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Sarah-Jane (née Morris) and David, a new release - a son Otis Jack, born at 18h52 weighing in at 9lbs 12oz.

DICKENSON - On February 5th at the Clarendon Wing, Leeds General Infirmary, to Bridget (née Birse) and Regan, a daughter, Hannah Lydia, a sister for Katherine and Ruth.

HARDIE - On February 6th 1995, to Mary-Anne 'Emma' (née Hodgson) and Christopher, a daughter, Isabella Mary Makin, a sister for Clementine, George and Hamish.

HARDY - On 9th January 1995, to Claire (née McCririck) and John, a son, Sebastian Paul, a brother for Josephine.

HEUSER - On February 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Margherita Abbozzo and Stephen, a son, Victor, a brother to Giulia and Holly.

MACDONALD - To Sally (née Mills) and Malcolm, their first child, a daughter, Rosemary Joanna Hermione, on Christmas Day 1994.

McGURK - On February 2nd, to Alison (née Skelton) and Anthony, a daughter, Olivia Alice, a sister for Sophie.

MEREDITH - On 2nd February, to Richard and Louisa (Oriel), a daughter, Evelyn Martha, a sister for Rosamund.

MEYER - On 31st January 1995, to Jasmine (née Dighton) and John, a beautiful daughter, Amber Louise Dighton.

BIRTHS

MURPHY - On February 8th, to Karen (née Benn) and John, a beautiful daughter, Grace Elizabeth, a welcome sister and playmate for Eleanor Rose.

OUWEHAND - On February 5rd, at St Mary's Hospital, to Sally (née Davies) and Willem, a daughter, Isa Emily India, a sister for Olivia.

QUINCEY - On February 3rd at Queen Charlotte's, to Antonia (née Giovanazzo) and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Alessandra Claudia. Deo Gratias.

RUMBOLD - On 6th February 1995, to Kerry and Philip, a son, Oliver Steven Philip, a brother for Nicholas.

RYMASZEWSKI - On Monday 6th February, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Janie (née Grimitin) and Marek, a daughter, Ismay Aleksandra Caitlin.

DEATHS

BARRETT - D.A. On February 7th, peacefully at home, Dennis, husband of Peggy, father of Jo and Jonno and grandfather. Late of Beale & Company. At his request no funeral, no mourning. A celebration of his life will be held at Killiow, Kea, Truro, on Saturday March 4th at 12.15 pm. Donations, if desired, to Cornwall Macmillan Nursing Service or Marie Curie Fund c/o W.J. Beswetherick & Son, Fairmantle Street, Truro, TR1 2EQ.

BRAY - James Charles, aged 67. Passed away 2nd February 1995. I will always miss you. love Amanda. Cremation on Tuesday 14th February 1995 at Eltham Crematorium, 10 am. All enquiries to J.W. Simpson, (071) 703-3161.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Dr. Paul Segar, beloved husband of Annejet, father of Edith Anne and Digna and grandfather of Tim and Ann, on 6th February, peacefully at Wickham Court Nursing Home. Thanksgiving Service at Christ Chapel of God's Gift, Dulwich Village, at 2pm on Monday 13th February following private cremation.

COBBOLD - Margaret Isabel (née Cargill) at home on February 5th 1995. Much loved mother of Penelope and Fiona. Funeral Monday 13th February at 12 noon St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas, Dorset. Flowers to Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester DT1 1TW. tel: (01305) 262538.

DUNCAN - Frank, aged 72, died suddenly on a ski slope in France on 6th February 1995. Constant husband of Elizabeth (née Hewitt), caring father of Suzy, Sarah and Andrew, adoring grandfather of Lara, Emma, Stephanie, Isobel and Thomas. Private funeral. Memorial Service later. Donations in his memory to Calibre Cassette Library for the Blind, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5XQ.

FINNESEY - On 26th January, Frances Finnesey M.B.E., younger daughter of the late Francis Osmond and Mary Ann Meades Finnesey of Wakerley, Lincolnshire and sister of Dorothy. Cremation has taken place. Enquiries to Davenport Lyons, tel: (071) 287-5353.

FINN - On February 6th 1995, peacefully at Eastbury Manor Nursing Home, Compton, Dr. Andrew Bartley Rigden Finn aged 84 years. Husband of Elise and father of Nick, Julian and the late Liz. Private cremation at Guildford Crematorium on Friday February 10th at 4.50 pm. Memorial Service at St Nicholas Church, Compton, on Monday February 13th. Further enquiries to J. Gorringe & Son Funeral Directors, tel: (01483) 416403.

GEE - On 5th February, peacefully after a long and most courageous fight against cancer, Marianne (née Kalbeck-Maxtner), adored wife of Ronald and beloved mother of Pamela and Jennifer. She will be sorely missed.

DEATHS

GOODRICH - On 6th February, suddenly at home, Gordon Goodrich, M.C., aged 79, adored husband of Elizabeth, greatly loved father of Carolyn and Anthony and father-in-law of Lez and Jeannette, wonderful grandfather to Olivia, Nicholas, Ben and Harry. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at All Saints Church, Ickleshem, nr. Rye, on Monday 13th February at 2.15 pm. All friends welcome. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to MacMillan Nurses Fund c/o Mrs Bennett, 26 North Salts, Rye, TN31 7NU. Memorial Service to be held in London at a later date.

HICKS - Anthony Julian, died suddenly 28th January 1995. Loved by all. Donations to Rugby Lions c/o Tony Ash F.C.A., 26 Albert Street, Rugby, CV21 2RS.

MACDONALD - On 4th February peacefully aged 87, Alastair M.B.E. M.C., beloved husband of Marie-Jeanne and dearly loved father and grandfather of Douglas, David and Cordelia. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium 1.30 pm Friday 17th February. Flowers to J.E. Gillman and Sons, 971 Garratt Lane, SW17. tel. (081) 672-1557.

MARSHALL - James Stewart, passed away 7th February 1995, aged 64 years. Loving and very much loved by his wife Joan and children Andrew, Patrick, Sue, Liz and Peter, daughter-in-laws Anne and Jan, son-in-laws Mark and Chris and grandchildren David, Kelly, Hannah, Katie, Mary, Arthur, Luke and Jack. Will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. Funeral Service at The Mid-Warwickshire Crematorium, Oaklea Wood, on Tuesday 14th February at 1 pm. Flowers or donations if desired to Charlcotte Ward, Warwick Hospital, c/o W.G. Rathbone. Funeral Directors, 30 Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa.

MOORE - On February 6th peacefully at home in Lymington, Eric Carol aged 73 years. Husband of Christine and father of Brian, Valerie and Christine, grandfather of Henry, George, Chay and Kimberley. Enquiries to Diamond and Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, (0590) 672060.

DEATHS

O'REILLY - On February 2nd 1995, tragically, James Richard, of Farnham, aged 25 years. Beloved son of Patricia and stepson of the late Robert Stephen. Funeral private.

PARRY - On 6th February peacefully, Audley John, aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Ann, dearly loved father and grandfather. Son of Mrs Muriel and the late Col. A.C.L. Parry. Cremation at Portchester Crematorium on Wednesday 15th February at 11.30 am. Family and friends welcome. Memorial Service at Exton Parish Church, Hants, on Saturday 25th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Exton Parish Church c/o Thomas Pink & Son, Bank Street, Bishop's Waltham, Southampton.

RUBINSTEIN - Mary, on February 6th 1996, peacefully at Nightingale House, aged 96. Remembered with love by son Christopher, daughters Margaret Manser and Anne Bower, sister Iris Montagu, niece Colette Green, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, relatives and friends.

SMALL - Peacefully at the Lymedoch Private Nursing Home, Bexleyheath on 6th February 1995, Hazel Irene aged 102, widow of Sir Alexander Small K.B.E., C.M.G., Malaya and Singapore 1910 - 1940, dearly loved mother of Irene, mother-in-law of Sandy MacRobert, grandmother of Sandy, Alison and Andrew and great-grandmother of Elizabeth and Thomas.

STORRS - On February 8th 1995, at her home, Susan Mary, Dr. (née Tracy), beloved wife of Francis. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Bardwell Ash, on Tuesday February 14th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or if desired donations to Bardwell Ash Church may be sent c/o A.E. Thurlow & Son, 1 High Street, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2HH.

SUFFIELD - On 7th February, Eve, darling wife of Tony and adored mother of Charles, John, Caroline and Robert. Funeral Southrepps Church, nr. Cromer, at 2.30pm Thursday 23rd February. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Friends of Norwich Cathedral c/o Fox's Funeral Services, 10 Canada Road, Cromer, NR27 9AH.

DEATHS

SUTTON - On February 3rd 1995, at Topsham, Wing Commander John Frank Sutton DSO, DFC, AFC, DL, aged 81, husband of Rachel, father of Hugo, Victoria and Benjamin, loving father and grandfather. Private cremation followed by Memorial Service St Margaret's Church, Topsham, at 2.30 pm on Wednesday February 15th. No flowers. Donations if wished to the Salvation Army, Friarsgate, Exeter.

WALLIS - On 7th February Helen Margaret OBE, died suddenly but peacefully. Funeral Service at St John's Wood Church, NW8 at 2.30 pm and at Golders Green Crematorium West Chapel on Friday 10th February. Flowers and enquiries to Funeral Directors J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street NW3.

WATHERSTON - On 7th February 1995, Eldon, very peacefully after a short illness, beloved wife of the late Jack Watherston, wonderful mother of Dianna and Rachael, and a very special grandmother. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced.

WEBBER - Molly (Mary Elizabeth), suddenly at her home in Thame on 4th February 1995. Requiem Mass at St Dunstans Church, Monks Risborough, on Monday 20th February at 11am, followed by cremation at Amersham. Family flowers only but donations for The Stroke Association c/o F.J. Wilson, Greenway, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 8EJ.

WILLETTS - On 30th January in hospital in Kuala Lumpur after a short illness, William Willetts FRSA, aged 76. Cremation in Kuala Lumpur on 3rd February. A distinguished scholar and writer on Asian art, founder of the South-east Asian Ceramic Society, his passing will be deeply regretted by his friends and those whose lives he enriched.

WOOLF - Peacefully on February 8th 1995 in a London nursing home, Leslie Philip aged 85 years, formerly of Chelsea. Sadly missed by all his friends. Funeral Service on Thursday 16th February 1995 at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11 at 3pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, SW1, tel: (071) 834-4624.

DEATHS

YATES - Carolyn Mary (Carol), dearly loved wife of Paul and devoted mother of Emma and David. Service at St Mary's Church, Barnes, 11 am on Tuesday 14th February, followed by Interment at East Sheen Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

COWDRAY - Memorial Services for The Viscount Weetman John Churchill will be held at St Paul's Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, SW1, at 12 noon on Tuesday 7th March and at Banchory Ternan Parish Church, Kincardineshire, at 11.30 am on Friday 10th March. No morning dress by request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ARMSTRONG - Guildford, Surrey. The family of the late Paul Armstrong wish to thank most sincerely all colleagues and friends for their kindness, sympathy, letters and cards received during their sad bereavement. Special thanks to Dr. Morris and staff of The Phyllis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice, Farnham, for the loving care and attention given to Paul.

BIRTHDAYS

HUDSON Peter and Carol Hudson of the Vicarage, Mellor, are pleased to announce the eighteenth birthday of their son David, born 9 Feb. 1977.

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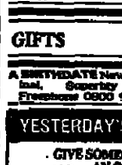
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THE TIMES
NOTICE TO READERS
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OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER KENNETH PAGE

Brigadier Kenneth Page, CBE, DSO, MC, gunner and Intelligence officer, died on January 26 aged 97. He was born on January 23, 1898.

A MILITARY Intelligence officer in the 1930s, Kenneth Page continued his secret war while a prisoner for five years in Nazi Germany. He passed on information to the War Office through coded letters to his wife and children — who replied after taking instructions from Whitehall. Although his family were never told the cipher used, nor knew the true meaning of all the "gossip" they relayed, they faithfully inserted certain sentences dictated by his masters in Intelligence.

"Uncle George has stuck the fork through his wellingtons while digging up potatoes and has gone to hospital," might sound like an innocent item of news from home if the letter was intercepted by the Germans. It could carry, however, a wealth of hidden meaning to the young lieutenant-colonel in his bleak prison hut.

Early news about the German V-weapons is thought to have been among the information he sent back — based not only on his personal observation but on scraps fed to him by newly-captured PoWs.

Page had won the DSO in 1940 while commanding an anti-tank regiment in the 51st (Highland) Division during the British retreat to the Channel ports. But along with the rest of the division, he had found his troops isolated at St Valéry, where he was captured.

He was among those forced to march 300 miles on scanty rations in three weeks before being imprisoned at Laufen in Upper Bavaria at Oflag-VIIC. The military OBE he was awarded after the war reflected his Intelligence work while in captivity.

Yet had he been given the chance as a young man, he would probably have become a research scientist.

A farmer's son, Edwin Kenneth Page was brought up in Baldock, Hertfordshire, from where he went to school at nearby Haileybury. On leaving, he volunteered for service in the First World War and soon found himself a 2nd lieutenant on the Somme.

Page won the Military Cross on the Western Front but never spoke about his experiences in the trenches — except to say that he was fortunate to survive. He agreed, however, to record an interview for the Imperial War Museum on what warfare was like in the days of horse-drawn artillery.

After the war he wanted to take a science degree at Cambridge. But his father could not support him there financially, so he settled for a permanent career in the artillery. After serving for a tour of duty at Edinburgh Castle, he found himself posted to Ireland to hunt down terrorists, touring Co Cork with a rifle clipped to his bicycle. Then after a year at Staff College, where the Pages lived next door to a certain Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Montgomery, a senior instructor, he was sent, like many others, to British India.

He served in a coastal defence battery near Karachi (now in Pakistan) before being switched to the staff and being



posted first to Poona, then to Delhi. It was on his return to this country in 1935 that Page joined Military Intelligence in Whitehall. His job involved liaising with military attachés round the world, working under Gerald Templer who was to make his name in Malaya after the war.

Throughout his five years as a prisoner of war, Page not only carried on working for Intelligence but used his time to learn German and Russian.

On returning to Whitehall at the start of the Cold War he was therefore a natural choice for the job of Deputy Director of Intelligence.

In 1949, with his PoW experience, he was also a senior member of the British delegation sent to Geneva, to take part in rewriting the Geneva Convention. There followed three idyllic years as military commander in the Caribbean, at a time of the first stirrings towards independence in the West Indies. Then, after a year as Director of Statistics at the War Office, he retired.

Within 12 months he was back at work, however, as director of studies at the Joint Services School for Linguists. His most immediate brief was to recruit a team of language tutors to start intensive courses in Russian for selected servicemen. Page moved with the school from its original base in Surrey to a new home in Bodmin, Cornwall. But when it transferred to Crail on the Fife coast, three years later, rather than face further upheaval, he resigned.

Instead he developed an interest in local government. After moving to Dorset, he was elected to the county council in 1961 as an independent. He was made an alderman seven years later and continued to serve on the council until 1974, his special concerns including transport and the police. He then resigned at the time of local government reorganisation.

A tall, upright, shy man, given to understatement, Page was a great reader throughout his life. He was also a supremely fit man who regularly walked up to four miles a day until he was 94.

He married twice. His first wife Kate, born in Barbados, whom he courted over the garden fence at Baldock while on leave from the First World War, died in 1975 four years after their golden wedding. In 1987, aged 89, he married his second wife Joan, a farmer's widow who had served with him on Dorset County Council. He is survived by her and by two sons from his first marriage.

WILLI SOUKOP

Willi Soukop, RA, sculptor, died yesterday aged 88. He was born on January 5, 1907.

WILLI SOUKOP was one of those immigrants to Britain who brought a European breadth of approach to British art and its teaching, and saved it from being too insular and parochial. He could work in the most literal or abstract of styles, and was meticulous in using the most appropriate materials.

His craftsmanship brought him many public and private commissions in churches, schools, housing estates and gardens. They were not always readily recognisable as "Soukops", but Soukop was not one of those artists who insisted on forcing his own style onto a commission, however inappropriate to the site.

Wilhelm Josef Soukop was born in Vienna. The name was Czech and a common one for the families of craftsmen. His father Karl was a Moravian shoemaker who, overcome by the horrors he had witnessed in the trenches during the First World War, disappeared into the Danube or the forest immediately afterwards. The family had a tough time but the young Willi, by carving 200 umbrella handles a week at a factory and attending evening classes at the arts and crafts school in Vienna, managed to get himself to the Academy of Fine Art in Vienna. He studied there from 1928 to 1934, under H. Bitterlich and J. Müllner, learning to appreciate both classical and Expressionist art.

A chance meeting and invitation brought him in 1934 on a visit to Dartington Hall. Austria at the time was moving towards Nazism and Dartington seemed to be an idyllic oasis of art and culture. As well as the civilised life of its owners, there was in residence the Kurt Jooss ballet company (for whose famous ballet *The Green Table* Soukop provided the masks), Michael Chekhov's drama school and, near by, Bernard and David Leach's pottery.

Soukop, feeling somewhat embarrassed at not working for his keep, was taken on as a freelance sculptor and part-time teacher in the school. He sculpted the donkey in the



Soukop's *Meditation* in terracotta, 1969

garden, familiar to generations of pupils and visitors. He also provided masks for a production of *Macbeth* at Glyndebourne. Less successful was his introduction of small sculptures to the sales stand which Dartington regularly mounted at the Chelsea Flower Show — gnomes, rabbits and mushrooms, he discovered, sold better.

From 1935 to 1945 Soukop taught at Dartington (with a break of nine months in 1940 when, as an Austrian citizen, he was interned in Canada). From Dartington, he visited other schools such as Blundell's and Bryanston as a part-time teacher, and introduced sculpture into their school art curricula, an innovation which spread.

In 1945 he moved to London, teaching at Bromley School of Art, 1945-46, Guildford School of Art, 1945-47, Chelsea School of Art, 1947-72, and as master of sculpture at the Royal Academy schools, 1969-82. Soukop's sense of craftsmanship and openness of stylistic approach were eminently suitable to teaching.

Soukop had exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1935. He was made an Associate of the RA in 1963 and a full Academician in 1969. His *Owl*, exhibited at the RA in 1963, went on to the Tate Gallery under the terms of the Chantrey Bequest.

Soukop was a natural choice, with his adaptability and craftsmanship, for public commissions. For instance, in new churches such as St Luke's, Barrow; housing estates, with his mural in concrete for Elmington Estate, Camberwell; and schools with a sheet-metal relief at Harpenden.

From 1974 Soukop had trouble wth his eyes, though it was not until 1981, after his falling from a ladder, that this was diagnosed as cataracts and glaucoma. Partially cured by treatment, he added a further chapter to his career — active, inventive and practical as ever — by working on sculpture for the blind.

Willi Soukop married Simone Moser, a dancer and teacher, in 1945 and they had a son and a daughter, all of whom survive him.

GRANVILLE DAVIES



DAVID KINDERSLEY

David Kindersley, MBE, stone-carver, designer of alphabets and calligrapher, died in Cambridge on February 2 aged 79. He was born in Codicote, Hertfordshire, on June 11, 1915.

DAVID KINDERSLEY was a large, enthusiastic and genial presence, his vivid personality merely the outer carapace for a profound commitment to the art of lettering. He was among the very few anywhere in the world not only to practise to the highest standards the art of letter cutting, but through his own workshop and teaching ability to pass on his skills to other practitioners. He was also committed to the study of the spacing between words and letters, a matter he felt to be of crucial importance.

Computerised typesetting systems fascinated Kindersley and he worked with Cambridge scientific colleagues on their study. He designed an optical letter-spacer which was built by Cambridge Consultants with the help of Letraset, and he and his workshop used the computer for continuing research.

Kindersley not only designed spacing systems but also half a dozen typefaces. He taught and talked with beguiling passion, which was often particularly and subtly helpful because of the delicacy and sensitivity of many of his commissions, especially for private memorials and gravestones. The legend "Kindersley's Workshop Tombstones Engraved & Cut In the Best Hands" was carved with clarity and exuberance on one 12-inch slate from the workshop; the sentiment was heartfelt.

The son of a stockbroker and educated at Marlborough, David Guy Barnabas Kindersley had first worked for a firm of Italian marble-carvers, mostly translating into marble and stone the clay models of eminent 1930s Royal Academicians. It was then, reading Eric Gill's writings and instinctively and intellectually embracing the notion of truth to materials, that he sought Gill out and apprenticed himself to him (1933-36), thereafter embarking on his career as a self-employed letterer, working with stone, glass and on paper.

Countless memorial plaques, foundation stones, coats of arms and inscriptions on buildings throughout the country are his work, making him among the most successful public artists of the period. Many have seen an inscription by Kindersley without knowing it to be his. One of his favourite sayings, from Idries Shah, was "the work is hidden in the workshop". It appeared in one of his several publications, *Graphic Sayings* (1973). He contributed not only to his own history but the history of his craft with a number of books, some technical, some essays and anthologies, both verbal and visual, including *Eric Gill — Further Thoughts of an Apprentice*, first published in 1967. After the letterer Lida Lopes Cardozo, from Holland, joined David Kindersley's workshop in the late 1970s they published Cardozo Kindersley Editions.

His varied practice over more than six decades included the Falklands memorial in St Paul's, the great inscription at the entrance to the Ruskin Gallery in Sheffield, war memorials for Cambridge colleges, bookplates, alphabets, and lettering used extensively by the Ministry of Transport. He spent much of his working life of more than sixty years in Cambridge, first in a medieval tower, and latterly in a converted Victorian school. The purposeful bustle of the workshop and living spaces, where he received clients and where he would talk and show with delighted enthusiasm the qualities of particular pieces of stone and slate and discuss work in progress, put his philosophy of life in practice.

David Kindersley was three times married and he is survived by six children, including Richard Kindersley, the letterer, and Peter Kindersley, the publisher, and his wife Lida Lopes Cardozo and their three children.

HIS HONOUR EDWARD SUTCLIFFE

His Honour Edward Sutcliffe, QC, formerly a Judge of the Central Criminal Court, died on January 6 aged 77. He was born on August 25, 1917.

EDWARD SUTCLIFFE was not merely one of the few surviving Additional Judges of the Central Criminal Court to have been appointed by the City of London; he was also the only surviving Recorder (latterly honorary) of the city of Canterbury.

Edward Davis Sutcliffe was the third son of R. J. Sutcliffe, a busy common law junior barrister specialising in building society law and practice during the period between the wars. It had been his father's hope that his third son would follow in his footsteps at the Bar — a hope which, thanks to the war, had to be deferred.

After attending University College School, Hampstead, and reading law at Wadham College, Oxford, the young Sutcliffe joined the Territorial Army early in 1939. He served in the Royal Artillery from August 1939 until May 1945, reaching the rank of captain and being mentioned in dispatches.

He was then seconded for ten months to the North German Coal Control to supervise the re-equipment of German mines with mining machinery. As the grandson of a distinguished mining engineer, he was not wholly unqualified for this task.

He was called to the Bar by



the Inner Temple in November 1946. From then until he took silk in 1959 his progress was steady, if unspectacular; his was the type of practice that required considerable industry and meticulous attention to detail. These were Sutcliffe's strengths both as an advocate and later as a judge.

As a QC he was initially retained in criminal work but his abilities were soon widely recognised: he was appointed legal assessor to the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council. He became a member of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, being one of its founder members, and in 1966 was elected Bencher of his Inn. In 1968 he was appointed Recorder of Canterbury. He was also an energetic and enthusiastic member of Justice, on a number of whose committees he served.

When in 1969 he became Judge of the Central Criminal Court, his previous judicial appointments automatically lapsed; it was, therefore, a matter of immense satisfaction to him that the city of Canterbury appointed him in 1974 its Honorary Recorder, an appointment which he regarded as demanding hard active participation and involvement in the life of the city. His work was recognised by the city's bestowal of its freedom upon him in 1983.

In 1984 he retired from the Bench, but for the next five years sat as a judge both in the Maidstone and Canterbury Crown Courts and as chairman of the disciplinary committee of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. He retired fully in 1990.

As a judge Edward Sutcliffe displayed all the qualities that had marked him out as a successful barrister but combined them with a mixture of realism, compassion, dignity, humour, and common sense that was all his own. Away from the Bench, he was a man of sincere modesty and unaffected courtesy. His interest in the young was deep and genuine: he was devoted to and justly proud of, his family and was always a generous, and considerate host and companion.

He is survived by his wife Elsie, whom he married in 1939, and their two daughters.

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KREISLER SECRET REVEALED

CLASSICAL DISGUISE FOR OWN WORKS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, FEB. 8

Herr Fritz Kreisler, the famous violinist, disclosed last night that he was himself the composer of the many works published during the past 30 years as his arrangements or transcriptions of the compositions of classical composers. The disclosure was brought about through an inquiry made of him by a writer and lecturer on music, who sought to learn what changes Herr Kreisler had made in the Praeludeum and Allegro, "by Pugnani" in the catalogue of Carl Fischer Incorporated of music for string instruments. Herr Kreisler's compositions appear in two categories, "classical manuscripts" and "original compositions." In the first group there are 14 compositions attributed variously to Vivaldi, Porpora, Stamitz, Couperin, Cartier, Pugnani, Dittersdorf, Francouer, and Padre Martini. Last night Herr Kreisler telegraphed to the *New York Times* as follows:—

Every piece named, in fact the entire series labelled "classical manuscripts," are in every detail my original compositions, with the sole exception of the first eight bars of the Couperin Chanson de Louis XIII., taken from a traditional melody. Necessity forced this course on me 30 years ago, when I was desirous of enlarging my programmes. I found it inexpedient and tactless to repeat my name endlessly on programmes.

The reason given by the violinist for his action is supplemented by an explanation of his publisher and other friends, who remind the public that 30 years ago, while he had already been a famous violinist for five years——since he was 25——he was not the outstanding figure he is to-day. His colleagues would not have been eager in those days to play the work of a rival and coming virtuoso.

It is not expected that Herr Kreisler's acknowledgment of authorship will diminish the esteem in which these "classical" compositions are held, for critics have long given them a high place in music. As one critic said of them to-day, "They are superbly written for violin in the most idiomatic and effective fashion." It is recalled of one of these works, the Concerto in C attributed to Vivaldi, that a critic wrote:—— "The second movement, *andante doloroso*, was moving but not sentimental, for Vivaldi did not wear his heart upon his sleeve."

ON THIS DAY

February 9 1935

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), a child prodigy who became a celebrated violinist, startled the musical world when he revealed that some of the arrangements he had played over many years and had ascribed to earlier composers were, in fact, written by himself.

Visa opens the hotel door to a company price cut

BUSINESS travellers who hold a Visa company credit card qualify for discounted hotel prices of up to 40 per cent off the normal room rate and are guaranteed a reservation if they use their card in more than 7,800 hotels worldwide. In addition, Visa has linked up with four large international chains — Radisson Edwardian, Sheraton, Steinberger and Movenpic — to offer extra services when their rooms are booked.

Visa acknowledges that many large companies will have already negotiated their own corporate rates with frequently used hotels. But it believes that its hotel guide will offer savings for small and medium-sized companies as well as executives travelling to new destinations. A copy of the Visa directory is available from 0171-795 5225.

Also just out is Egon Ronay's 1995 guide to the best hotels and restaurants in 30 countries across Europe, including the Eastern Europe. Information includes country dialling codes, airport, rail and car hire details, speed limits and bank and shop opening hours. The guide's award for the best business hotel in Western Europe is the Hotel Bristol in Vienna; in the East it is the Sheraton Sofia Balkan in Sofia, Bulgaria. Available from bookshops at £12.99.

Romance

HOTELIERS are becoming ever-more imaginative in attempts to find a fresh twist to Valentine's Day. The 12-room country house Hotel on the Park at Cheltenham, for example, offers not only the traditional champagne and red roses but promises to provide a Valentine's card for those who have forgotten. A room with dinner starts at £68.50 per person per night. Details: 01242 518898.

The Chester Grosvenor, in Chester, is offering two heart-shaped chocolates placed on the pillow at night, along with a red rose and a half-bottle of champagne. Rooms are available at £170 a night, plus VAT. Details: 01244 324024. Crabwall Manor, close to Chester, has already sold its luxury Ranulphus suite at £495 a couple but still has rooms left at £40 per person if the Valentine's dinner is also booked. Details: 01244 851666.

Eastwell Manor near Ashford, Kent, offers a gourmet dinner on Valentine's night, along with accommodation, for £180 per couple. Champagne, roses and chocolates are extra. Details: 01233 635751.

ROOM SERVICE

Game plan

THE 68-strong Jarvis hotels group has uncovered a secret desire among business travellers: playing hand-held video games. When it made the Nintendo Game Boy systems available in its hotels, it thought most demand would come from children.



In fact, the greatest demand came from executives. "Travelling salesmen in particular have become addicted to the game and occasionally claim to choose a Jarvis hotel simply because of it," Hugh Taylor, marketing director, says.

Taking off

SHERATON Hotels is expected to be given the contract to run Manchester Airport's five-star hotel, due to open later next year. Sheraton recently opened an airport hotel at Genoa, Italy, with 284 rooms and it is refurbishing its Sheraton Heathrow property. This will include the addition of new health and leisure facilities as well as a new all-day restaurant, called the Garden Terrace. Sheraton has also decided to incorporate the Ciga luxury hotel group — bought recently from the Aga Khan — into a new up-market brand called the Luxury Collection. This brings together both Ciga and the top Sheraton properties into a 48-strong group, spanning 19 countries. Details: 0800 353535.

Rooms on tap

WHITBREAD is opening two new budget Travel Inn hotels, at Maidstone and York, later this month, followed by two more at Folkestone and Oldham next month. This will bring its total to 68 hotels, all priced at £34.50 per room a night.

Networking

COMPUTER buffs staying on the club floors at London's Churchill Inter-Continental Hotel can hire a personal computer at £9.50 a day. It will enable guests to access networks such as Internet or Compuserve and send electronic mail and faxes from their rooms. The system also offers a choice of two software programs, Microsoft Office or Lotus Smartsuite and access to financial data through the Reuters 1000 service. Details: 0171-723 5233.

Inter-Continental, meanwhile, has has included the word "resorts" in its official title, the first name change since being founded almost 50 years ago.

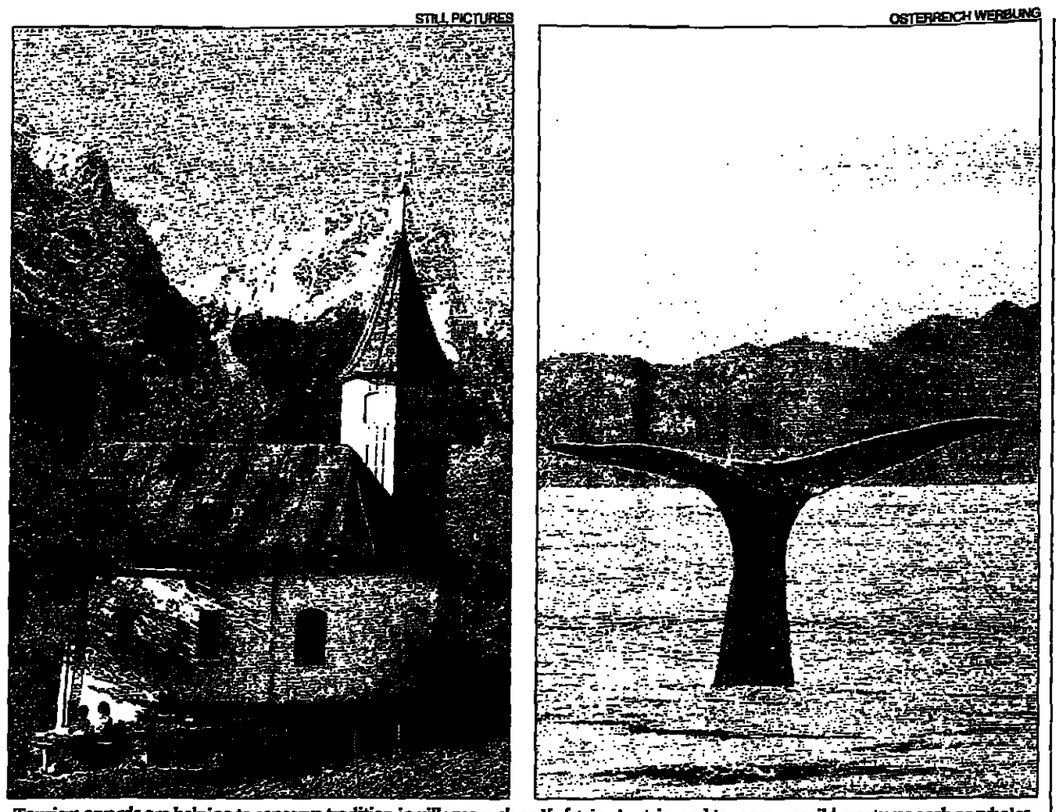
New Novotel

FRENCH hotel group Accor is opening a Novotel three-star hotel at London's Waterloo Station in the summer to capture the market for Eurostar passengers. The 189-room property plans to charge £99 per night for single rooms and £115 for doubles. Novotel is also refurbishing its Hammersmith hotel and has plans to launch new "themed" restaurants, called Garden Brasseries, in its 18 UK hotels. Research among Novotel guests found that they rate the hotels clean, comfortable and convenient and see Hilton hotels as the main competitor.

DAVID CHURCHILL

STILL PICTURES

OSTERREICH WERBUNG



Tourism awards are helping to conserve tradition in villages such as Kufstein, Austria, and to conserve wild creatures such as whales

An eye on survival

Marianne Curphey on the winners of last night's British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards

A New Zealand whale-watching project established and run by Maoris has beaten a record 120 entries to win a highly respected environment award.

Whale Watch, based in Kaikoura on New Zealand's South Island, a former whaling town, was formed by a group of local Maori people who now own and operate a small fleet of four vessels.

It took the global award in the 1994 British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, presented in London last night by the BA chairman, Sir Colin Marshall.

A refurbished railway station has become the operation's headquarters for the year-round business, and the boats have made 7,000 trips to date. All profits go directly to the education and training of adults and young people.

Previous winners have included the Londolozi Game Reserve, South Africa; and the Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Nepal.

Sir Colin was joined at the presentation by the conservationist David Bellamy and judges who included Sir Crispin Tickell, Warden of Green College, Oxford, and David Sheppard of the World Conservation Union. The awards are supported by the British Tourist Authority and the Federation of Tour Operators.

Mr Bellamy, describing Whale Watch as "innovative", said the project was vital because it made the whales a valuable commodity in the sea without killing them. This was at a time when some nations were lobbying for "sustainable harvesting" of whales now that world bans have produced increasing numbers.

He added: "Four million people a year enjoy whale watching and are keen to protect the species by supporting projects like the one in Kaikoura.

"Central to the project's success is the transformation of the Maori marae [traditional meeting place] at Kaikoura to an education centre.

"Educational programmes in a range of environmental subjects including marine tourism, forestry and fisheries conservation, plus the teaching of culture and tradition, has re-established the marae as the community centre is should be."

Whale Watch also won the award for the Pacific region, and four other regional winners were announced.

The Americas award (north and south America plus the Caribbean) was won by Chemainus, "The Little Town that Did", a community generation scheme in British Columbia. The project restored life to a small community whose main industry was the timber trade, and since its creation similar projects have been executed in Australia and throughout North America.

In Europe, the winner was *Umweltsiegel Tirol*, the Tyrolean Environmental Seal of Quality, a programme which aims to create ecologically sound tourism and raise ecological standards to conserve the Alps. Launched in January 1992 by the Tyrolean Tourist Board, seals are given to accommodation and catering establishments which adhere to environmental standards on waste avoidance, water and effluents, air, energy, transport and noise. This is the third time since 1990 that an Austrian project has won the European award.

The Southern Award (Africa, the Seychelles, India and the Middle East) went to Hilltop Camp, part of the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park in South Africa, which contains the largest population of wild rhinoceroses in the world.

The Natal Parks Board has redeveloped the park with the help of the local community.

In the UK, the winner was a treatment plant in Jersey which uses ultra-violet light to disinfect sewage. The Bellozane Treatment Plant ensures the island has clean beaches and bathing water.

A simple answer to boarding delays

A simple change in the way passengers board their aircraft has sharply reduced the time "wasted" on the ground and helped to turn one of America's biggest airlines from loss into profit.

Passengers sitting nearest the windows using United Airlines' (UAL) domestic "shuttle" service are now asked to board first, followed by those in the middle row, and those with seats on the aisle. Normally aircraft are filled from the back to the front regardless of whether the passenger has a ticket for a window seat or an aisle, causing congestion and long delays.

The new boarding system appears to have speeded up the process and helped to cut the time spent on the ground between short flights from about 40 minutes to little more than 20. It is now being studied by other airlines around the world.

The change was one of many proposed by the airline's cabin staff as part of a new "no frills" low-cost operation first introduced last October as an experiment.

The cabin crew also act as cleaners at the end of each flight to speed the turnaround and passengers do not need a ticket. They can turn up minutes before the flight and pay at the gate by credit card. They are then assigned a seat which, says the airline, also helps to speed the boarding process. There are no meals on board and only the very basic service of cold drinks — so costs are kept to a minimum.

The shuttle experiment has proved such a success that it is now being expanded throughout the West Coast, with six flights a day from San Francisco to Phoenix and as many as 32 a day from San Francisco to Seattle.

The system was forced on UAL largely by the success of other low cost carriers, such as South West Airlines. It has helped to produce the first fourth quarter profit for the airline since 1989. In the last three months of 1994, UAL made a net profit of $11 million (£7.3 million) compared with a loss of $64 million for the same period of the previous year.

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The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

There has to come a day when there are no more cuts to be made, no more inefficiencies to be rooted out, no more jobs which can be shed, contracted out or done at home rather than in the office, and no new technology which can revolutionise our lives. But that day is still a very long way off as far as the travel business is concerned.

I have just spent two days with men and women who are convinced that the biggest transformation in business travel is just around the corner. It will be a change so irresistible that companies who use it first will save so much that their competitors will be driven out of business. This, in turn, will, of course, mean thousands more jobs lost — very probably including those of the men and women of American Express in Phoenix, Arizona, who are now working out how it can be implemented. But that is not stopping them from pursuing their task with a clean-cut, all-American zeal which is both awe-inspiring and terrifying.

Business men and women will, they say, continue to travel in ever increasing numbers, especially as the world's economy improves and the vestiges of the recession are left behind.

But, according to American Express, they will be tied electronically by a "smart card" to their headquarters at all times, their every item of expenditure monitored, often before they swipe their card through the machines which the customer businesses will need to install if they too are to survive.

Cutting costs will be top priority at all times. Only those airlines which can undercut their rivals with rock-bottom fares will get the business of the handful of agencies — only one if American Express has any say — who will control the travel-buying policies of the vast majority of the world's corporations. Business men and women will be allowed to stay only in those hotels which give the best corporate rate, and eating out will be allowed only if the approved restaurant cuts its prices to those now more commonly seen in a fast-food café.

It all, perhaps, sounds so sensible. The only way that many companies are going to be able to survive is if they compete in cutting costs and become efficient. Certainly it will please the accountants, but the coming revolution will also mean inevitably that tens of thousands of small travel agencies, thousands of restaurants, hundreds of hotels and dozens of airlines will have to be sacrificed in the drive for efficiency. It will also finally kill any lingering glamour attached to business travel, especially over long distances.

More than $400 billion is spent worldwide on business travel each year. On average each company in America spends $2.6 million, or $2,500 per employee. It is a massive drain and one which American Express and other business travel agencies now claim to be able to cut to make each company more competitive. By using their enormous buying power to obtain the lowest rate, by rationalising firms' travel policies and forcing them to keep a tight rein on their employees' expenses, they quickly proved that travel and related expenditure could be cut by at least 15 per cent at a stroke.

One big international company had been using 150 different travel agencies to send its staff on business trips. Now they use only American Express and have saved $50 million in a year. Other travel companies in other countries also made impressive savings for their clients, so Amex simply bought them, spending over $600 million in the last year alone, including $375 million for Thomas Cook business travel.

Now Amex believes even bigger savings can be made through its greater buying power. It is convinced that by the year 2000, if not before, one corporate card will be issued to most international business travellers which will act as an airline ticket, hotel-room key, car-rental contract, telephone-calling card, insurance policy and even taxi-fare payer. It will only work, however, if the lowest possible price has first been confirmed by the traveller's own "gold-digging" personal computer, which will automatically sift out the nuggets from the prices quoted in any given town or city to find the cheapest available.

The businessman's expenses will then be back on the boss's desk before he has even finished his meal. It will be the clinical, efficient, computerised and economically sensible way to make a deal. But for the long-distance business travellers, those whose eyes have "frequently flyer bags", there will still be the jet lag.

There is a lake in Arizona across which the old London Bridge has been rebuilt. It is rumoured that the man who bought it thought he was buying Tower Bridge.

I think I now know why he made such a mistake: he was suffering from jet lag.

Basic breaks with new comforts

Humble gite fights back

Families booking a traditional gite holiday in France this summer will have more room in the Volvo. Brittany Ferries and Gites de France — Britain's two biggest operators to France — are now providing linen and towels in many of their properties.

The shift away from a basic cottage break in rural France to a more pampered existence is echoed elsewhere in the industry. Two French campsites owned by Haven Europe will provide linen in their mobile homes. And Meon is offering a cook and maid service in half a dozen Côte d'Azur properties at a premium of between £100 and £150.

> Linen is offered but only 50 per cent want it

Haven owns and operates sites at Les Charmettes in Charante-Maritime and Le Lac des Reves, near Cannes. More than a third of its 90,000 UK holidaymakers stay on the two sites. Dawn Cremin, Haven Europe's marketing manager, said: "Customers are paying a lot of money for top-of-the-range mobile homes, so every extra bit helps."

Gites de France has more than 2,000 properties in France and Brittany Ferries 1,300. About 30 per cent of Gites de France properties will offer all-inclusive holidays. Alex Balancey, the company secretary, said: "Within three years, we will have all gites in the scheme." Brittany Ferries will offer three categories of gite holidays, although heating will be extra. Julie Burrows, the product manager, added: "Price is all important so it would be wrong to penalise people who had to pay for heating in advance in case the weather turned out to be hot."

The initiatives come as the market for gite holidays has stuttered after 17 years of growth and amid increasing competition in the post-Channel Tunnel demand for France. France is also under threat from emerging destinations such as Portugal, where virtually all rural properties include towels and linen and prices are 20 per cent lower.

Despite the trend, one specialist said not all British families were abandoning the dream of a basic, isolated holiday. John Parker, managing director of Just France, has offered linen on site for the past three years, at an extra cost — but only half of his customers take it up.

STEVEN KEENAN

Sloping off suddenly

Quick ski breaks can be successful, says a surprised **Doug Sager**



SPECTRUM

Courchevel, one of the most fashionable resorts, is ideal for a well-organised short break

Neal Manuel found that the amount of work involved in his job as financial director of a fashion house left him no time for winter skiing holidays, so he quit his job and opened a skiing-holiday agency, FlexiSki.

Mr Manuel concentrates on two of Europe's most fashionable resorts, Courchevel and Verbier, and focuses on City clientele. Eighty per cent of FlexiSki's weekend breaks are corporate incentive accounts. I turned up in Courchevel a day after a party of London bankers had vacated FlexiSki's elegant Lodge Nogentil.

The most successful British travel operators today are the skiing specialists. Thomson, a one-time market leader, has retreated from America and is cutting back all over Europe. Specialists such as Ski Esprit, for families with small children, and The Ski Company, for wealthy adults, prosper in niche markets.

FlexiSki can lay on jet flights from London City Airport direct to the altiport in Courchevel, or arrange a weekend in Verbier only hours before the final Thursday evening flight to Geneva. Flexibility for day trips and for ten-day, holidays centres on scheduled flights, lightning transfers and instant access to hotel rooms.

Verbier *aficionados* need only hear that FlexiSki maintains its own private table on permanent reserve at the Farm Club to understand how well the firm is established locally. In Courchevel, where British clients are not always warmly welcomed, FlexiSki seems to have negotiated an honorary "French" status among its selected hoteliers.

I have always had a sceptical attitude towards weekend skiing, considering that four days cost almost as much as a full week. But as anyone who has suffered the Wednesday wobblies on a seven-day package can attest, four serious days' skiing is about as much as a flatland Englander can safely manage at one go.

Weekend skiers are denied the full range of the Alps. Flying and transfer times rule out Austria and Italy, not to mention Zermatt and St Moritz. Mr Manuel's experience is that weekend warriors are, foremost, party animals. That is why he has picked Verbier, and Courchevel. Verbier, an hour and 45 minutes from Geneva airport, has the quickest transfer in the Alps to hard-core, off-piste skiing and intensive nightlife. Courchevel has the most extensive intermediate skiing in Europe.

A workaday skier myself, I arrived in Courchevel too late for the weekend's Russian evenings at La Bergerie. But I'll be there at the FlexiSki table in the Farm Club in Verbier this weekend.

● *FlexiSki: 0171 352 0044. Weekends at Verbier and Courchevel start at £325, including flights, transfers and half board accommodation.*

Large companies are seeking better travel discounts for staff

Agents under fares pressure

Senior officials from British Airways are next week meeting the UK's leading business travel agencies to determine the shape of corporate travel buying in response to changes in new technology and pressure from large companies to control travel costs.

The meeting will be the first of several BA is holding with travel agents and large companies over the next few months to generate a debate on the future relationship between airlines, companies and travel agents.

Business travel agents are worried that big companies, keen to keep travel costs under control, increasingly want to deal directly with airlines to secure cheaper fares. At present, the leading airlines give travel agents commission, usually about 9 per cent of the fare, as an incentive to sell their tickets. There are also incentives, called "overrides", which give travel agents extra commission.

But large companies argue that the agents do little to earn such commissions and increasingly believe they should get more direct benefit for buying large numbers of airline tickets. British Steel, for example, recently decided to consolidate its £5 million a year spent on air tickets with BA through its travel shops rather than with a specialist business travel agency.

In America, several major companies have formed an organisation called the Business Travel Contractors Corporation (BTCC) to negotiate directly with the airlines. There is now speculation that a similar group may be formed in the UK, after a visit to London last week by Kevin Mitchell, the BTCC's president, who met government officials and industry representatives.

Richard Lucente, BA's national field sales manager, who is leading next week's talks with business travel agents, insists that BA is not trying to ease them out of business.

"Even in the US," he says, "where companies and airlines have tried to bypass agents for the past 20 years, about half of all sales still go through agents. In the UK, about 80 per cent of our sales are through agents. So they are going to remain important to us for a long time."

But he believes that the development of new technology in ticket reservations and remote printing, especially the new combined European tickets and boarding passes, means that agencies and companies need to discuss the long-term implications.

Other airlines are also paying attention to BA's attempt to bring the business of travel buying out in the open. Stewart Mettrick, the head of sales at AirUK, recently acknowledged the concern among corporate travel buyers at the "cosiness of the agent-supplier relationships".

DAVID CHURCHILL

TRAVEL IN BRIEF

Take the romantic line on a Pullman

NOW THAT February 14 is drawing closer, true romantics can book a St Valentine's Day lunch or dinner trip on the British Pullman (0171 928 6000) for £170 a person, boarding at Victoria Station, London, and being whisked away for a scenic tour of the Kent countryside, *Marianne Curphey writes*. Or celebrate the day in London at Claridge's (0171 629 8860) with a five-course dinner for £60, then stay in a double room for £120 a person, including flowers and champagne on arrival and breakfast the next day. Superbreak (0904 679999) has a package combining seats for the musical *Crazy for You* with dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Grafton Hotel in London for £99 a person.

Calling all pioneers

ENERGETIC people with the pioneering spirit are sought by the adventure holiday specialist Encounter Overland (0171-370 6845) for a reconnaissance expedition across Africa. The eight-week, 4,000-mile Blue Nile And Beyond journey will carve out a new route from Nairobi up to Cairo. It will take in Ethiopia and Eritrea, out of bounds for the last 15 years because of civil war. The 21 travellers taking part must be prepared to get involved in research such as checking out new campsites, food supplies and places of interest en route. The trip leaves Nairobi on April 29 and costs £1,190. It includes food, transport and camping accommodation, but return flights from the UK are excluded.

Guide to the wild side

A TRAVEL show for independent and adventure travellers arrives in London this weekend, with advice on trekking in the Himalayas, exploring Central America or watching wildlife in its natural habitat. The Independent Traveller's World show (0117 930 4440) is at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London (nearest tube is Angel) and starts tomorrow at noon and on Saturday and Sunday at 10am. Entrance is £3 on Friday and £4.50 during the weekend.

Wrongfooted



THE Ramblers Association has accused the Government of abandoning support for countryside recreation in favour of "medal-winning" sports. The association's president, the broadcaster Janet Street-Porter, right, claimed that the sports minister, Iain Sproat, had banned the Sports Council from promoting walking, cycling and climbing. In Manchester yesterday, she said ramblers were intensifying their nationwide campaign to promote walking.

Business prejudice

HOTELS ignore businesswomen, even accusing some of soliciting when they return to a hotel late at night, says a survey conducted among 500 women. The poll, conducted for the Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments in London's Piccadilly, revealed that 90 per cent of women complained that waiting staff assumed a male guest was choosing the wine and paying.

Joining the club

TWO NEW British members have been admitted to the prestigious international Relais & Chateaux hotel consortium: the Stock Hill House Country House Hotel, near Gillingham, Dorset, and the Buckland Manor, near Broadway, Cotswolds.

● CORRECTION: Blackpool Pleasure Beach is not part of the Tussauds Group, as *The Times* reported on February 7 but an independent, family-owned company. We apologise for the error.

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THE TIMES TODAY THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

NEWS

Howard may end exclusion orders

■ The Home Secretary is considering plans to drop the use of exclusion orders under which Northern Ireland residents can be banned from the British mainland.

Michael Howard, who is facing increasing pressure from Dublin and the opposition parties to respond to the cessation of paramilitary violence, is also expected to lift some of the 58 banning orders in force ..... **Page 1, 9, 19**

Minister shuns 'dreadful humans'

■ Steven Norris, the minister in charge of London transport, was condemned for describing users of public transport as "dreadful human beings". He told MPs that cars were extraordinarily convenient because "you have your own company, your own music and you don't have to put up with dreadful human beings sitting alongside you" ..... **Page 1**

Natural Law buys base

The Natural Law party, which believes yogic flying can cure the ills of modern society, has bought a former US Airforce base which it will turn into a 4,000-student university ..... **Page 1**

Life term protest

The Government came under fresh pressure to scrap the mandatory life sentence for murder with a call for its abolition from Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice ..... **Page 2**

Funeral surprise

The mother of *Jill Phipps*, the dead animal rights campaigner, said she was surprised when a canon of Coventry Cathedral offered the building for her daughter's funeral ..... **Page 2**

Paras punished

Four paratroopers who were freed by a judge after a ferocious attack on a father of two were disciplined by their commanding officer ..... **Page 3**

Remains dug up

A skeleton was found in a garden by police digging for a girl who vanished in 1978 ..... **Page 3**

Victory for Princess

From the moment in 1993 that the Princess of Wales decided to pursue Bryce Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers, there was never any serious doubt that the matter would be settled out of court ..... **Page 5**

At home with Gorman

The MP Teresa Gorman threw open the new oak front door to the listed farmhouse she has been accused of vandalising ..... **Page 7**

Bottomley court test

Virginia Bottomley will attempt to put a stop to increasing demands from magistrates and judges for her to appear in court to explain the shortage of secure hospital beds ..... **Page 6**

China accused

The Philippines accused China of stationing vessels in a part of the Spratly Islands claimed by Manila and of detaining local fishermen ..... **Page 10**

Boesak faces charges

Four Scandinavian charities are to start legal action against the Rev Allan Boesak, who is battling accusations that he enriched himself at the expense of victims of apartheid ..... **Page 11**

Gaza clampdown

Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip launched their severest security clampdown since the introduction of autonomy, arresting more than 100 radicals ... **Page 12**

Nato looks south

In a marked shift of emphasis from traditional concerns to the East, Nato's Governments agreed to divert some diplomatic attention to security risks on the alliance's southern flank around the Mediterranean ..... **Page 14**

Paxman named as rudest interviewer

■ Jeremy Paxman, presenter of BBC2's *Newsnight*, is the rudest interviewer on the BBC, according to a survey by the corporation. Sixty-one per cent of people questioned thought Mr Paxman less polite than he should be. John Humphrys, of Radio 4's *Today*, was considered discourteous by 37 per cent, and Sir David Frost by 35 per cent ..... **Page 4**

TIM SMITH



Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, admiring a figure yesterday during a visit to the Henry Moore Sculpture Trust in Leeds

BUSINESS

Pensions: Lloyds Abbey Life has made a record £80 million provision to cover compensation for investors who were advised to move from occupational schemes into personal pension plans ..... **Page 25**

Economy: The outlook for inflation has become more favourable, the Bank of England says in its quarterly *Inflation Report* ..... **Page 25**

Bid battle: A major pension fund has been drawn into the conflict between Northern Electric and Trafalgar House by insisting that the electricity industry should abandon its main defence to hostile takeovers ..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 0.2 points to 3072.5 and sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 79.0 to 78.6 ..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Richard Stemp, the No 11 batsman, hit a six and a four to help England A to a one-wicket win against India A in Chandigarh and a morale-boosting 3-0 victory in the series ..... **Page 42**

Football: Steve Coppell is to step down as chief executive of the League Managers Association, signalling a likely return to club management ..... **Page 48**

Rugby league: Beverley, the only amateur side to beat professional opposition in the Challenge Cup, are hoping to repeat the feat against Batley ..... **Page 46**

Rugby union: Scotland announced an unchanged team, for the third match in succession, to meet France. It is a luxury they have not enjoyed since 1990 ..... **Page 45**

ARTS

Matricidal tendencies: *Heavenly Creatures*, best of the new films, is based on the true story of two New Zealand girls who murder one of their mothers. Also opening this week is *Star Trek: Generations*, with old and new casts meeting in space ..... **Page 35**

Anchors aweigh! Jolly tars and saucy girls crowd the Sadler's Wells stage as Birmingham Royal Ballet revive the scintillating *Pineapple Poll* ..... **Page 36**

Cleo roars on: At the age of 67, Cleo Laine demonstrates her undimmed vocal artistry in a residency at the Café Royal ..... **Page 36**

Pyjama games: Mr and Mrs Paul Merton hit the mattress at the Garrick Theatre for their new comedy, *The Live Bed Show* ..... **Page 37**

FEATURES

Rufina Philby: "I had the most wonderful years of my life with Kim," Philby's widow tells Richard Beeston over dinner ..... **Page 16**

Red grouse: Numbers are down and heather is suffering. Magnus Linklater on the critical state of Scotland's moors ..... **Page 16**

BODY AND MIND

Ovarian cancer: Can the fourth most common cancer in British women be prevented? ..... **Page 17**

Minorities and myths: A survey of the health of ethnic minority groups in England provided surprising findings ..... **Page 17**

TRAVEL

Sloping off: You can take a quick ski break on the Continent and still get good value ..... **Page 23**

Smart move? The biggest transformation in the business travel is around the corner, Harvey Elliott says. It comes in the form of the "smart card" ..... **Page 23**

BOOKS

Tony Blair: Ian McIntyre on the first biography of the Labour leader ..... **Page 39**

Past genius: David Ekserdjian looks at Anthony Blunt's love of Poussin; Stephen Logan on the normalising of Shakespeare by a maverick wanting to put the plays back in circulation ..... **Page 38**

TELEVISION

Preview: Courage, eccentricity and disregard for authority were the hallmarks of Colonel Alfred Wingate, who is portrayed by Jim Broadbent in *Heroes and Villains* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond finds Channel 4's retrospective of *The Tube* curiously lacking in nostalgia ..... **Page 47**

OPINION

Proceed with caution

The circumstances of Northern Ireland have changed considerably: the Government should not be afraid to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act ..... **Page 19**

Nato's Claes war

It is precisely because the problems of North Africa are so grave that the response of the West needs to be more refined than that envisaged by Willy Claes ..... **Page 19**

Classroom values

In the long run the Government must move towards local pay bargaining: it would be a far better form of devolution and one that would give governors true flexibility to hire and fire ..... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Sometimes, Newt Gingrich sounds apocalyptic. Last December he said: "No society can survive, no civilisation can survive, with 12-year-olds having babies, with 15-year-olds killing each other, with 17-year-olds dying of Aids, with 18-year-olds getting diplomas they cannot read" ..... **Page 18**

RONALD BUTT

Present indications are that the future European Union is more likely to resemble the Habsburg or Ottoman empires than a democratic federal state ..... **Page 18**

OBITUARIES

Brigadier Kenneth Page, gunner and intelligence officer; **Willi Soukop**, sculptor ..... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Businessmen take Government to task on single currency ..... **Page 19**

LETTERS

The Chinese have fended off repeated complaints of piracy, professing ignorance of the Western concept of intellectual property. But ... they have laws against it

— The Washington Post



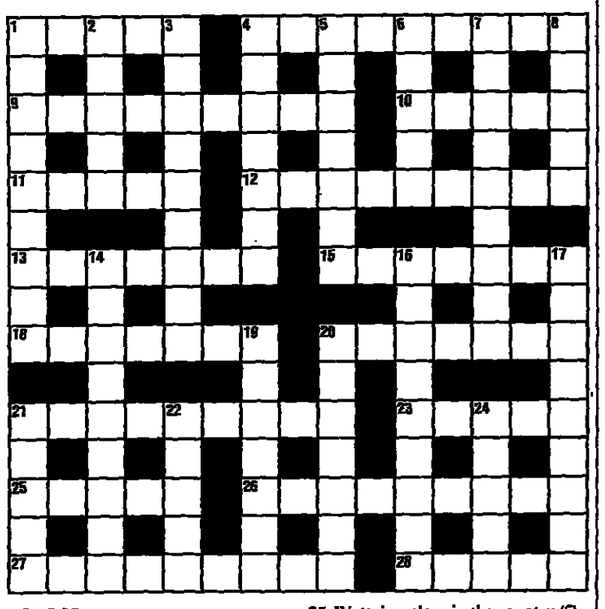
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **MORRISSEY**
David Sinclair meets rock's elder statesman (left) at the start of his British tour

■ **PLUS ...**
The Bernard Levin column, the Valerie Grove interview and Caitlin Moran on modern music

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,774



ACROSS

1 River bird seen around in a flock (5)
4 Intrigue to get one friend framed by another (9)
9 Destined to accept position of leadership, though not very intelligent (3-6)
10 Court appearance due to dissipation to some extent (5)
11 Young scamp working in Yorkshire (5)
12 Supportive worker can rally one in difficulty (9)
13 Brass permitted in a decorative collar (7)
15 Russian possessing no English — it's to do with pride (7)
18 Furies from Ireland? Certainly! (7)
20 Finance record arrears (7)
21 Appropriate limits of bespoke tailoring (9)
23 Antony, say, an upright type (5)
25 Watering place in the country (5)
26 Common place, in a word, where parking space may be found (9)
27 Quite a gathering — one occurs irregularly (9)
28 Sound feed for these horses? (5)

DOWN

1 Justification for holding monarch in respect (9)
2 Cricket side with spinner gets advantage (2,3)
3 Egyptian bird taking partner for keeps (9)
4 Note intended to ensnare girl (7)
5 Supplement contributed by willing writer (7)
6 Limpet almost dislodged by push (5)
7 Realistic admission of rise in the atmosphere, using statistical techniques (9)
8 English youngster gripping pole from wood (5)
14 Teach-in, if organised by head (9)
16 Happening to find old *d*-dog sitting on lap (9)
17 Mechanics look for first signs of exhausts rusting in motors (9)
19 Perils involved when adopting soft footwear? (5)
20 A challenge following the amount of game killed in traps (7)
21 Primary scholar thus supported (5)
22 Ballroom dance a matter of taste, love (5)
24 Nursery runner having a short time to practise (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,773

O	U	T	R	E	A	C	H		A	R	C	A	D	E
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	C		O		P		R		I		E		E	
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I	N	D	I	A		H	E	A	R	T	A	C	H	E
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P	A	L	L	A	D	I	U	M		S	P	A	C	E
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L	E	A	N	T	O		P	I	P	E	L	I	N	E
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I		E		G		V		E		S		N		
C	O	D	I	F	Y		E	M	P	H	A	S	E	S

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERLINE

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Strh Glam & Gwent	709
Shropsh,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Newquay, Cornwall, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Birmingham and Shrewsbury, 4.2hr.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.25 am — Sun sets: 5.04 pm

Moon sets: 2.51 am — Moon rises: 11.40 am

Full moon February 15
London 5.04 pm to 7.25 am
Bristol 5.14 pm to 7.34 am
Edinburgh 5.03 pm to 7.50 am
Manchester 5.07 pm to 7.39 am
Penzance 5.29 pm to 7.43 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will stay dry with some good bright or sunny spells by day but with frost and some patches of freezing fog developing overnight. South Wales and southwest counties of England will stay rather more cloudy. Northern Scotland will have snow, heavy at times. Much of the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold with overnight frost.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N:** generally dry with bright or sunny spells. Freezing fog later. Wind easterly, light. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind east to northeasterly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry with bright or sunny spells. Frosty again by evening with freezing fog. Winds easterly, moderate. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind northeasterly, generally light. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** snow showers, some quite heavy. Wind northwesterly, fresh. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NW Scotland:** Clear or sunny spells with a few snow showers over higher ground. Wind mainly easterly, light. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold in the North, but mostly dry. Rain later.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.9	0.02	5	41	sn
Anglesey	0.5	-	10	50	c
Aspatria	-	0.16	5	41	r
Aviemore	1.6	0.02	4	39	sn
Belfast	-	0.18	6	43	d
Birmingham	4.2	-	11	52	d
Bognor R	-	-	10	50	du
Bournem'th	-	-	11	52	d
Bristol	0.2	0.01	11	52	r
Buxton	-	-	8	46	c
Cardiff	-	0.01	10	50	r
Clacton	-	-	11	52	c
Colwyn Bay	0.5	-	11	52	c
Cromer	0.4	-	11	52	c
Doncaster	0.1	-	11	52	du
Eastbourne	-	-	10	50	du
Edinburgh	3.2	-	7	45	b
Eskdalemuir	-	0.02	4	39	c
Exmouth	-	0.03	11	52	c
Falmouth	X	0.05	12	54	r
Fishguard	-	-	9	48	c
Folkestone	-	-	10	50	c
Glasgow	3.2	0.04	7	45	s
Guernsey	0.2	0.09	11	52	c
Hastings	-	-	10	50	c
Hove	-	-	9	48	du
Hunstanton	0.4	-	9	48	c
Isle of Man	-	0.01	8	46	c
Jersey	0.9	-	11	52	c
Kinloss	2.9	0.04	4	39	sh

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Leeds	-	-	9	48	c
Lerwick	2.9	0.08	1	34	sn
Leuchars	1.7	-	7	45	r
Liverpool	-	-	9	48	c
London	-	-	11	52	c
Lowestoft	3.2	-	11	52	c
Manchester	-	-	10	50	c
Margate	-	-	10	50	du
Minehead	0.1	0.01	12	54	d
Morecambe	-	0.02	8	46	r
Newcastle	X	0.20	8	46	r
Newquay	0.7	0.09	12	54	r
Norwich	2.9	-	11	52	b
Nottingham	X	-	11	52	c
Oxford	0.6	-	11	52	c
Penzance	0.1	0.06	12	54	r
Plymouth	-	0.07	11	52	r
Poole	-	-	11	52	c
Scarboro'	-	0.09	7	45	r
Scilly Isles	0.1	0.01	11	52	c
Shrewsbury	4.2	-	11	52	s
Skegness	-	-	11	52	c
Southend	-	0.05	11	52	du
Southport	-	-	8	46	du
Stornoway	4.1	0.08	4	39	sh
Teignmouth	-	0.03	11	52	r
Tenby	-	-	10	50	c
Torquay	-	-	12	54	c
Weymouth	-	-	10	50	c

These are Tuesday's figures

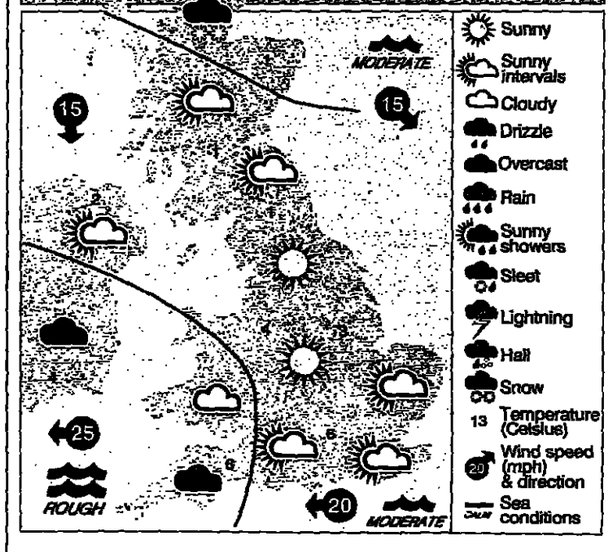
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	c	Corfu	15	59	s	Majorca	15	59	s
Alicante	15	59	s	Dublin	4	39	c	Malaga	21	70	f
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Malta	15	59	s
Algiers	20	68	s	Faro	17	63	s	Melb'rne	18	64	f
Amst'dm	2	36	r	Florence	10	50	f	Mexico C	19	66	f
Athens	16	61	s	Frankfurt	9	48	r	Miami	21	70	s
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	20	68	s	Milan	5	41	c
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	11	52	f	Montreal	-17	1	s
Barbados	28	82	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Moscow	-5	23	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	-2	28	s	Munich	10	50	f
Beirut	13	55	f	Hong K	21	70	f	Nairobi	30	86	f
Belgrade	16	61	s	Innsbruck	7	45	f	Naples	13	55	c
Berlin	1	34	sl	Istanbul	9	48	s	N Delhi	23	73	s
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jeddah	33	73	s	N York	-4	25	s
Biarritz	18	64	f	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Nice	11	52	c
Borde'x	13	55	f	Karachi	31	88	s	Oslo	-1	30	s
Brussels	10	50	r	L Palmas	20	68	s	Paris	10	50	c
Budapst	13	55	c	Le Touqt	11	52	f	Peking	10	50	s
Cairo	16	61	f	Lisbon	16	61	c	Perth	35	95	s
Cape Th	25	77	s	Locarno	8	46	c	Prague	9	48	f
Chicago	-8	18	c	L Angels	14	57	c	Reykjavik	-10	14	s
Ch'church	21	70	-	Luxembg	7	45	r	Rhodes	14	57	s
Cologne	9	48	r	Lyon	19	66	f	Rio de J	23	73	f
C'phagn	3	37	c	Madrid	11	52	f	Riyadh	21	70	f

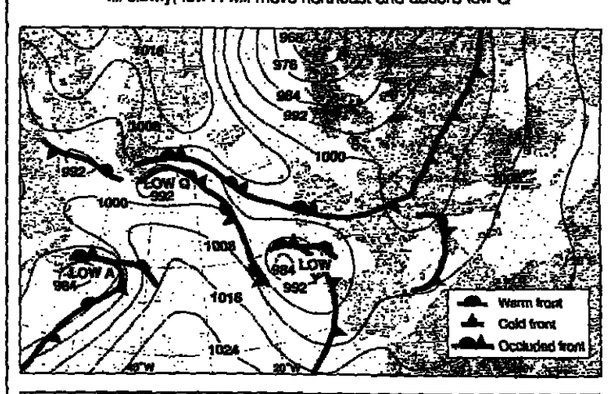
Rome	14	57	f
Salzburg	9	48	f
S F'isco	12	54	c
Santiago	29	84	s
S Paulo	19	66	c
Seoul	8	46	f
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	-5	23	s
Strasb'rg	10	50	r
Sydney	25	77	s
Tangier	17	63	c
Tel Aviv	18	48	f
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	12	54	s
Toronto	-6	21	f
Tunis	18	64	f
Valencia	18	64	f
Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Venice	8	43	c
Vienna	13	55	f
Warsaw	1	34	sn
Wash'ton	-	--	
Wel'ngton	21	70	c
Zurich	12	54	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

AROUND TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low V will drift east, then southeast, and fill slowly; low A will move northeast and absorb low Q



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:36	5.73	8:13	5.68	Leith	9:42	4.31	10:20	4.27
Aberdeen	8:13	3.45	9:00	3.43	Liverpool	5:38	8.97	6:21	8.87
Avonmouth	0:42	10.06	1:28	9.86	Lowestoft	3:52	2.11	4:55	2.08
Belfast	5:53	2.93	6:29	2.84	Margate	6:19	3.82	7:00	3.74
Cardiff	0:42	9.21	1:35	9.01	Milford Haven	0:12	5.13	0:58	5.04
Devonport	11:40	4.18	--	--	Newquay	--	--	0:14	4.79
Dover	5:22	5.16	5:29	5.03	Oban	--	--	1:17	2.83
Dublin	6:55	3.30	7:22	3.26	Penzance	11:38	4.09	--	--
Falmouth	--	--	0:07	3.85	Portland	--	--	0:06	1.26
Glasgow	8:49	3.90	7:15	3.59	Portsmouth	5:31	3.85	8:17	3.83
Harwich	5:56	3.11	6:43	3.03	Shoreham	5:39	4.70	6:20	4.58
Holyhead	5:07	4.27	5:47	4.25	Southampton	5:10	3.71	5:59	3.57
Hull	0:15	5.79	1:09	5.66	Swansea	0:15	7.02	1:06	6.89
Ilfracombe	--	--	0:35	6.52	Tees	10:46	4.03	11:13	4.03
King's Lynn	1:15	4.73	1:58	4.66	Wilton-on-Nze	5:54	3.15	6:39	3.13

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٩:٥٥ ص الجمعة



JANET BUSH 29

Missing piece of the economic jigsaw



BOOKS 38, 39

Why is the grin fading from Tony Blair?



SPORT 42-48

Coach reviving rugby league's amateur heyday

NEW FILMS CROWNED BY MURDER
Page 35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

LLoyds Abbey sets aside £80m to cover mis-selling

Record sum for pensions victims

BY ROBERT MILLER

LLOYDS Abbey Life has made a record £80 million provision to cover compensation for investors who were wrongly advised to switch or transfer out of occupational schemes and into personal pension plans.

The announcement prompted fears that the industry's bill for checking hundreds of thousands of policies and compensating investors who were mis-sold personal pension plans could top £3 billion. Initially it was estimated at £2 billion.

Lloyds Abbey Life, a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank and the parent company of Black Horse Life and Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, was kicking off the sector's annual reporting season with a 2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £315.6 million. The company has a 3 per cent share of the personal pensions market.

By contrast, the Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, which reports in March and which last year said it saw no need to make any specific provision for pensions mis-selling, has a 9 per cent market share. Its sales practices were informally investigated by Lautro, the outgoing regulator for life companies.

Bill Day, pensions officer at GMB, the general union, said: "On the basis of the 3 per cent market share of Lloyds Abbey Life we are now looking at a total bill for pensions mis-selling of at least £3 billion. We have identified thousands of our members who have been wrongly advised to switch or transfer out of good occupational or company schemes and into personal pensions."

He continued: "The companies that we have identified as being most at fault are headed by the Prudential and include household names such as Pearl and TSB. Yet the Prudential has consistently refused to make any provision for pensions mis-selling. On the basis of the Lloyds Abbey Life market share the Prudential could be looking at a compensation bill of £250 million."

The Lloyds Abbey Life results are the first to be announced since the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, published a damning report into personal pensions mis-selling last October.

The SIB ordered life companies urgently to review the files of at least 350,000 investors, but nearly a million more could request a similar review from their personal pension provider. After the SIB's report the Department of Trade and Industry, the regulator responsible for the financial health of Britain's life and pensions companies, wrote to all chief executives asking them to report back by the end of this month with an estimate of their compensation liabilities. The DTI also asked for an assessment of the financial implications of these liabilities.

Within the Lloyds Abbey Life group, Black Horse Financial Services, which made a pension provision of £35.4 million within the £80 million total, reported falls of 37 per cent on single premium business and 19 per cent for regular premium business. The Black Horse agencies recorded a £3.7 million loss.

At Abbey Life itself pre-tax profits were down 8 per cent on the previous year to £123.8 million, with single premium business falling by 18 per cent.

In spite of the uncertain outlook for the pensions and insurance market Lloyds Abbey Life proposed to raise its final dividend from 18p last time to 19.5p per share for the year ending December 31.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCKMARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3072.5	(-0.2)
Yield	4.24%	
FT-SE A All share	1513.65	(+0.60)
Nikkei	18290.25	(-210.30)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3950.18	(+12.78)*
S&P Composite	482.49	(+1.68)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5¾%)
Long Bond	89²⁄₃₂*	(98¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.65%*	(7.64%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⁵⁄₁₆%	(6⁵⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	102¹⁵⁄₃₂	102¹⁄₁₆

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5530*	(1.5565)
London:		
$	1.5525	(1.5577)
DM	2.3793	(2.3834)
FFr	8.2275	(8.2730)
SFr	2.0135	(2.0267)
Yen	153.62	(154.84)
£ Index	78.6	(79.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5323*	(1.5357)
FFr	5.2995*	(5.3125)
SFr	1.2965*	(1.3005)
Yen	98.98*	(99.43)
$ Index	82.7	(82.8)

Tokyo close Yen 99.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) $16.50 ($16.55)

GOLD

London close $374.85 ($374.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Rate rises have eased risk of inflation, says Bank report

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE outlook for inflation has recently become more favourable, despite the sharp uptick in prices and the surge in hiring that occurred just before Christmas, the Bank of England said yesterday in its quarterly *Inflation Report*.

The Bank said that the unexpected strength of recent economic figures had been fully offset by the two rises in interest rates announced since November, when the last report was published. This monetary tightening, combined with lower monetary growth and clear signs of decelerating growth of domestic demand in the autumn, now made it more likely than it was three months ago that inflation would stay within its official target range.

Speaking at a new public briefing to accompany the quarterly report, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said that interest rate decisions would be made "one month at a time" and would not follow any pre-ordained game plan. He denied that Eddie George, the Bank Governor, had indicated in recent speeches that interest rates might now be close to peaking, but noted that inflation projections in the report were based, as usual, on the assumption of no further changes in interest rates.

He added: "I cannot tell you when or whether interest rates will again have to go up. But the fact that interest rates have gone up and output growth has clearly slowed helps resolve some of the upside risk. We felt that the half-point increase in interest rates last week was warranted. We now have to wait and see what the next sets of data show."

The broadly favourable *Inflation Report* was cited by some dealers as contributing to sterling's continuing weakness in foreign exchange markets. The pound fell about a pfennig and a cent yesterday morning, largely because of nervousness about the stability of the Government after last week's dispute with the Ulster Unionists. Although British dealers dismissed speculation about an early election as ludicrous, they said that some foreign investors, with less understanding of the British political situation, were baling out.

However, some analysts saw a more significant reason for sterling's recent weakness in the change in interest rate expectations since last month. Investors, they said, are increasingly questioning the previously widespread assumption that UK interest rates would rise to 8 per cent or even 9 per cent.

Pennington, page 27

DENZIL McNEILANCE



Coming to market: Roy Hill, chief executive of Bath Press Group, Britain's largest independent bookmaker, which is being brought to market by Diverse Acquisitions. The move values the group at £13.2 million. Hill Samuel is underwriter; Albert E Sharp is stockbroker. Dealings are set to begin on Monday

Prices rising

Manufacturers in every mainland region of Britain are now managing to put up their prices — and companies across the country are forecasting even larger price rises, according to new evidence yesterday from the Confederation of British Industry. Page 26

Amstrad scrape

Amstrad, Alan Sugar's electronic group, barely scraped into profit in the first six months of the financial year, and provided further indications of grim Christmas trading in the high street. Page 27

Aluminium investors take flight

THE rout in the metals market spread to aluminium yesterday as hedge funds continued to take flight from commodities. The three-month price dropped to $1,865 per tonne in renewed selling after Wednesday's losses, which had left the price at $1,975 (Carl Mortished writes).

Investors, largely American funds, are continuing to dump metals in large volume in the futures market because of anxiety about interest rates and the US recovery.

Aluminium has lost over 13 per cent of its value from its January peak of about $2,150 per tonne, while copper has lost 9 per cent. Other base metals, such as nickel, lead, tin and zinc have slumped by as much as 20 per cent in the recent sell-off. Brokers expect the decline to continue.

"The scale of the sell-off has been unprecedented. It is across the board," said Nick Moore, metals analyst at Ord Minnett, the broker.

Heavy metal, page 29

C&G made to call extra meeting

BY ROBERT MILLER

HUNDREDS of thousands of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society members excluded from the Lloyds Bank £1.8 billion bonus payout have won a notable victory.

Last night C&G was forced to call an extraordinary meeting to consider their views and further discuss the proposed takeover. The society added that the meeting would cost about £500,000 to convene.

C&G said that it had received at least 100 requisitions from members who do not qualify for payments. Under the society's rules, C&G must now arrange a further meeting in addition to the one already called for March 31. Details of the extra meeting will be sent to members within the next 28 days.

The four resolutions that will be put to the new meeting include a call for some way to be found for widows and other joint accountholders to receive some benefit from the takeover and for the C&G board to negotiate a paper alternative to the cash payments to enable members to defer capital gains tax liability.

In addition, there is a resolution calling on the society to find some way to benefit members of less than two years' standing and the 375,000 borrowers who are excluded from the payout.

Paul Rivlin, founder of the C&G Alternatives action group, said: "It is now clear that C&G has misjudged the mood of its members. The society knows that there are thousands of members who are unhappy with the board's proposals and would like the opportunity to explain their views before they choose whether or not to accept the Lloyds bid."

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of C&G, said: "I do not know what this meeting is meant to achieve. It will certainly be of no benefit to the great majority of our customers. It is a total waste of money to have to call an additional meeting, for just 100 or so members, when they already knew that one is being held on March 31."

PosTel calls for end to power stake limit

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

ONE of the biggest pension funds has been drawn into the Northern Electric bid battle by insisting that the electricity industry should ditch its main defence to hostile takeovers.

PosTel, which represents the BT and Post Office pension funds, has written to all 12 regional power companies in England and Wales, asking them to abandon unilaterally the 15 per cent limit, built into in their articles of association, on any one outside shareholding.

The fund, and other City investors, have already called a meeting of Northern shareholders next week to seek deletion or amendment of the clause and are thought likely to succeed. There is the implicit threat that they will repeat the procedure at the other 11 companies, opening the industry to a wave of takeovers.

In the letter, David Adie, PosTel's shareholder affairs executive, says: "I see no reason for a further five year restriction on share ownership in the regional electricity companies and believe this restriction to be unwelcome and a distortion of the market."

Northern attack, page 26
Pennington, page 27

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Charles Saatchi to quit and join brother

BY JON ASHWORTH

CHARLES SAATCHI will stand down as honorary life president of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency to join his brother Maurice in a rival agency "as soon as he is free to do so", it emerged yesterday. Rumours of his resignation broke as the fight to block the brothers and a trio of fellow defectors moved to the High Court.

Saatchi served writs on the brothers and three senior directors, Bill Muirhead, Jeremy Sinclair and David Kershaw, in a further attempt to prevent them from setting up a new enterprise, dubbed The New Saatchi Agency. They are accused of infringing a registered trademark. Saatchi is seeking an injunction against the use of the name and will press for damages.

Saatchi last night denied that Charles had resigned, but admitted that he had signed heads of agreement relating to the formation of the new agency. This tallied with an affidavit read out in court yesterday, in which Charles said he intended to join his brother as soon as possible. He is on a five-year contract paying £312,000 a year.

Maurice Saatchi announced last month that he intended to set up a rival advertising agency. Since then, Saatchi & Saatchi has suffered further staff defections and has lost a handful of accounts, notably Mirror Group Newspapers. British Airways and Mars have put their accounts up for review.

Saatchi has now issued three separate waves of writs in an attempt to limit the damage. The first round, now before the High Court, seeks to bind the trio of defectors to the terms of their service contracts. Saatchi accuses the three of conspiring to damage its business and seeks to prevent them from poaching staff or clients.

Maurice is separately accused of soliciting his three colleagues to join him. He has already hit back with a counter-writ, claiming Saatchi broke his contract when it dismissed him in December. He left in the face of a shareholder revolt led by David Herro, a fund manager based in Chicago. A third set of proceedings has been launched in America, accusing Mr Muirhead of removing confidential Saatchi files.

None of the parties was in court to hear the proceedings. A judgment is expected tomorrow.

Making it easier for companies to get funding

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government may introduce an official certificate of financial management for companies that would make it easier for them to attract external finance for investment.

The Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry are considering such a system to help industrial companies to obtain funding in the City and elsewhere.

The initiative was disclosed yesterday by the Treasury, which also accepted that short-termism in the City's financing of industry is still a difficulty in the UK, though it insisted that banks' attitudes to business were improved. The idea of a new certificate in financial management — which some ministers will be wary of for fear of giving approval to subsequently poorly performing firms — has arisen out of the Treasury's review of the financing available to British industry.

It has certain similarities to the Government's Investors in People quality standard on training. Treasury officials believe that a new certificate would be an added incentive to companies to train personnel properly in financial management. Short-term funding and financial control of British industry has been widely seen as a significant contributor to the UK's poor competitive performance against other major industrialised countries.

Anthony Nelson, Treasury Economic Secretary, told MPs yesterday that the Treasury had not been able to conclude, after its review of financing available for industry, that British industry was no longer affected by short-termism. "I wish one could conclude that," he said. "But I don't yet think one can."

Mr Nelson, giving evidence to the Commons all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee, revealed the conclusions of the Treasury's review, originally set up under Stephen Dorrell, now the Heritage Secretary. He said that investment in the UK had been behind that of its major competitors, though in recent years Britain had caught up with most. Only Japan was still ahead. He said: "I believe we are on the right track."

The Treasury paper prepared for the Commons committee said biases in the tax system towards the distribution, rather than the retention of corporate profits, tended to work better for larger companies, with some "less desirable" implications for other firms. Many small businesses have complained about their banks, and despite Government action the Treasury's document revealed that problems still exist: "Despite significant progress in a number of areas, bank lending to small businesses remains the focus of criticism", with particular problems faced by small but growing innovative companies.

Mr Nelson said the single overwhelming message from industry was the need for a stable and strong macroeconomic environment, with low inflation and low interest rates. While there were problems for both the City and industry, he did not think that industry generally was unable to obtain the funds it needed.

Economic View, page 29

Industries are driving up prices nationwide

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURERS in every mainland region of Britain are now managing to put up their prices — and companies across the country are forecasting even larger price rises, according to new evidence yesterday from the Confederation of British Industry.

The wide spread of manufacturing price increases emphasises the need felt by the Treasury and the Bank of England last week for a further rise in interest rates to stave off increases in inflation.

CBI leaders had urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, not to raise rates again, but signs of inflationary pressures arising from higher price expectations shown by CBI survey evidence were a key factor in the decision to raise base rates for the third time in five months.

The latest evidence from the CBI — its regional breakdown of its quarterly industrial trends survey — shows that price pressures run right across the country.

The regional survey, carried out with Business Strategies, the regional economic consultants, shows that companies in all mainland regions of Britain are now managing to increase prices.

Although the balance of companies — those recording an increase set against those registering a fall — raising their prices stands at 10 per cent nationally, the spread is much wider regionally. In the North West, a balance of a quarter of all companies are increasing prices, followed by 23 per cent in East Anglia and a fifth in the South East. A balance of 5 per cent of companies in Northern Ireland are still seeing prices fall.

In interpreting price evidence from its surveys, CBI leaders have emphasised that manufacturers have not always managed to make intended price rises stick, but the regional analysis shows companies across the country managing to move over the last nine months from falling prices generally to being able to raise them.

Looking to the next four months, companies in all regions, including Northern Ireland, expect to put up their prices — by much higher levels.

Nationally, a balance of a third of all firms are forecasting rises, but it is 43 per cent in the West Midlands, 42 per cent in the South West and 37 per cent in Yorkshire. Lowest expectations are in the East Midlands and Northern Ireland, though even here strong rises are forecast.

The CBI yesterday said that there was "no obvious link" between areas with the fastest economic growth, such as Wales and the West Midlands, and increases in costs and prices.

The survey showed orders rising in all areas for the fourth successive quarter. Output is also rising in all areas, as is export demand.

Compel confident on year

COMPEL GROUP, the computer systems and services company that came to market last September, is confident on prospects for the full year after reporting a 20 per cent advance in first-half profits (Philip Pangalos writes).

Increased business from new and existing customers helped pre-tax profits to rise to £1.19 million in the six months to December 31, against £993,000 last time, on turnover up by 16 per cent, to £28.3 million.

Neville Davis, chairman, said: "The second half has started well and underlying market trends are positive for our business."

Earnings per share grew by 11 per cent, to 5.56p (5.02p). A 1.43p debut interim dividend is due on April 28. The shares, placed at 125p, closed 6p up at 115p.



Time for a quote: Eddie Leung plans to build a factory in China and open more shops

Hong Kong watchmaker plans float

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

DAILYWIN GROUP, the Hong Kong-based designer and manufacturer of watches and watch components used in some of the world's most popular brands, plans a stock market flotation this month in a move expected to value it at up to £20 million.

The company, founded by chairman Eddie Leung in 1978, has design and administrative offices in Hong Kong and manufactures in Guangdong Province in China. Dailywin now makes and assembles watches to customers who market their products under well-known names, including Timex, Accurist, Casio, Seconda, and Anne Klein, as well as leading Swiss and French brands.

Dailywin has three shops and 47 concessions in department stores in China, and its own brand, Saga, which is marketed solely in China.

A placing this month will raise about £5 million, with a net £2.6 million for the company. The proceeds will be used to build a factory in China, open another 33 concessions and five shops in China, fund an advertising campaign, and provide working capital.

The company made £1.43 million pre-tax profits in the eight months to November 30, on sales of £18.9 million. It forecasts pre-tax profits of not less than £2.17 million for the year to March 31.

French steel firm returns to profit

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

USINOR SACILOR, the French state steel company being groomed for privatisation, swung back into profit last year. Ranked number three in the world after Nippon Steel and Posco of South Korea, Usinor reversed a 1993 loss of FF5.7 billion (£689 million) to make FF1.5 billion (£181 million) during the year to end-December 1994.

The return to profit, which puts Usinor on course for a sale in the summer, after this spring's French presidential election, is good news for British Steel. The privatised British steelmaker, which ranks number four in the world, seeks allies in its battle against subsidies, which it blames for propping up uneconomic capacity in southern Europe and depressing prices.

The sale of Usinor, which is 80 per cent owned by the French state and 20 per cent by the troubled state-owned bank Crédit Lyonnais, is expected to raise up to FF27 billion (£3.26 billion).

Francis Mer, the chairman, yesterday predicted that 1995 and 1996 were likely to be good years for the steel industry. But a correction was likely in 1997, he said.

Usinor's sales climbed from FF75.3 billion to FF79.6 billion (£9.62 billion), aided by strong growth in flat steel products. Debt fell by FF7 billion to FF17.4 billion (£2.1 billion).

Northern attacks Trafalgar record

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, fighting off a £1.2 billion hostile offer from Trafalgar House, has attacked its bidder's financial record as the worst in its industrial sector, and its complex ownership structure as potentially giving rise to conflicts of interest.

The latest letter to Northern shareholders was immediately attacked by Rodney Leach, a non-executive director of Trafalgar, as "defamatory", and Trafalgar says it is considering all possible remedies, including legal action.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, says Trafalgar's main trading businesses have underperformed. The group, whose interests span shipping, property and building, "has the worst return on sales amongst the companies which are classified as diversified industrials within the FT All Share index," he says.

Northern's latest broadside, urging continued rejection of the bid, makes much of the claim that Trafalgar is "in effect" controlled by a minority shareholder, Hongkong Land, with 26 per cent. Mr Leach attacked this view as insulting to the "very powerful independent directors" on the Trafalgar board, of which he is one. He attacked as defamatory a request by Mr Morris that the directors explain why the latest report and accounts did not reassure shareholders that the company was a "going concern" financially.

Regulator attacks secretive BT

BY ERIC REGULY

DON CRUICKSHANK, Director-General of Telecommunications, yesterday accused British Telecom of impeding the industry's move towards open competition by being unnecessarily secretive.

At a seminar in London, Mr Cruickshank said BT chose to make confidential submissions to Oftel regarding implementation of separate accounting for separate activities. He said: "BT asked me to respond to confidential submissions ... The result has been a lack of transparency and understanding by the rest of the industry of what BT's position is." He also took a swipe at the effort by Mercury Communications to get the courts to examine the way BT charges rivals to connect calls to its network. Mercury expects to learn this week from the House of Lords whether it can proceed with its case.

"During the last year, Oftel has found itself working in a more legalistic and adversarial atmosphere. The effect may be to slow down the very changes everyone wants to see," he said.

BT seemed startled by the Director-General's statements. It noted that discussions about changes to BT's licences have been held in confidence for the past decade. It now says its position on separate accounting will be put on the public record "within the next two weeks".

Separate accounting, due to start in April, will force BT to publish detailed accounts of connection fees and access-deficit fees, the tariff it collects from competitors to maintain its local network. Oftel also wants greater powers to investigate BT's accounting procedures. BT said "the full range of unfettered discretionary powers now being sought by Oftel go substantially farther than is required to achieve accounting separation."



Cruickshank: critical

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Blair and Heseltine for BCC conference

TONY BLAIR, Leader of the Labour Party, is to address the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce in Aberdeen. Government speakers will include Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and John Watts, Transport Minister, who is responsible for roads. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, will also speak. The line-up is completed by Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, Chris Fay, chairman of Shell UK, and Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco.

The remarkable quality of speakers at the 1½-day conference, getting under way on May 11, confirms a determined effort by the BCC to enhance its public profile and match the publicity attracted by the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry. However, unlike the set-piece speeches that characterise the CBI's gathering, the Chambers will seek to promote debate between speakers and the 700 delegates expected to attend. Under the banner "Towards the Millenium", the conference will cover a range of topics. The opening debate, on Britain's prospects in the global economy, will be followed by discussion of employment issues, the impact of the information technology revolution, transport infrastructure needs and support for business.

Construction reform

A NEW construction industry body was launched yesterday to take forward reform proposals, which aim to cut the cost of building projects 30 per cent by 2000. The Construction Industry Board will be chaired by Sir Michael Latham, author of a report that recommended major reforms in the sector. John Gummer, Environment Secretary, will be president of the new body. The Latham report was the first major attempt for 30 years to tackle the ills of the construction industry. It branded the sector as conflict-ridden and made 30 proposals to help to meet the productivity target.

US sales forge ahead

SALES in the US at the wholesale level recorded the strongest rise in four months during December while stocks of unsold goods rose for a sixth consecutive month, the Commerce Department announced. Total sales by merchant wholesalers were up 2.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted $181.16 billion following a revised 0.7 per cent gain in November. For the full year, wholesale sales increased 6.8 per cent — the strongest annual gain in six years since an 8.7 per cent jump in 1988. Sales in the final two months of 1994 were brisk, contrary to earlier indications.

Changes for Crossroads

CROSSROADS OIL, the struggling exploration company, has come to the end of the road in its present form. Crossroads is to be absorbed by Melrose, a company that drills for oil and gas in New Mexico and Texas in the United States. After a reverse takeover deal involving placing £18.9 million of new shares at 20p, the company will change its name to Melrose Energy. Stock market dealing in the shares of Crossroads Oil was suspended pending an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on March 6 to discuss the takeover.

Conrad Ritblat ahead

CONRAD Ritblat Sinclair Goldsmith, the quoted surveyors, raised pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £673,000 in the half-year to November 30. John Ritblat, chairman, who also chairs British Land, the property company, predicted a satisfactory result for the full year and held out the prospect of longer term profitability from reorganisation and expansion. Revenue was £5.9 million (£5.6 million) and CRSG expects a revenue boost from surplus space in buildings acquired for its occupation last year. An interim dividend of 0.15p is the first since Conrad Ritblat and Sinclair Goldsmith merged in 1993.

Accounts prizes for BP and Graseby

BY ROBERT BRUCE

BRITISH PETROLEUM and Graseby plc have won the 1995 awards for best published accounts. The awards, which are co-sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountant institutes, are made each year for the best accounts from a large and a small company.

Speaking after the presentations, Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, said: "One of the reasons I was so delighted to read the accounts of BP and Graseby was to notice the extent to which both companies made conscious efforts to describe their financial and operational activities."

That point was taken up by Richard Sykes QC, the chairman of the judges. He said that BP was chosen for devoting a full page to corporate governance and for relevant accounting and figures intelligibly adjusted to give the US GAAP numbers for American shareholders.

Steve Ahearne, BP's chief financial officer, said: "David Tweedie and the ASB are doing us all a great service in building a good reporting framework."

In reply to finance directors who called for fewer rules, he said: "Even the best rules won't stop determined crooks, but to use that as an argument for dispensing with rules seems rather like saying that because some people drive like mad men we shouldn't have a Highway Code."

John Jackson, chairman of Graseby, the medical and technology group, said it tried to present a balanced report expressed in plain language. "We believe that our attitude helps the company because it demonstrates the company's confidence in itself."

Sir David said the reputation of financial reporting in the UK was changing. Britain had moved back into the international mainstream. He was impressed by "the way in which BP and Graseby had entered into the spirit of voluntary disclosures". This was echoed by John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the London Stock Exchange. He said that financial reporting is striking a good balance in terms of the quality and quantity of information provided, thereby ensuring that reasonable needs and requirements of shareholders are met, without being over-elaborate.

Accountancy, page 31



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Cyprus Cyp£	0.778	0.723
Denmark Kr	10.01	9.21
Finland Mrk	7.95	7.30
France Fr	9.72	9.07
Germany Dm	2.64	2.33
Greece Dr	394.00	369.00
Hong Kong $	12.69	11.69
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2625.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	169.00	153.00
Malta	0.615	0.560
Netherlds Gld	2.830	2.600
Norway Kr	11.05	10.25
Portugal Esc	257.50	239.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.28
Spain Pta	213.50	199.50
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.46
Switzerland Fr	2.16	1.98
Turkey Lira	refer	61809.0
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The perils of insider dealing - a novel as topical as tomorrow's headlines from the author of The Risk Takers
THE MARGIN OF THE BULLS
JEREMY ROBINSON



Look to LITTLE, BROWN for books that mean business

☐ One more rate rise may be needed ☐ PosTel flexes its muscles ☐ Taxing problem for the Recs over Grid flotation

Hiking towards the peak

☐ THE idea that interest rates may be close to peaking, at least for the next year or two, at their present rate of around 7 per cent may seem absurdly optimistic to hardened veterans of the wars against inflation in the 1970s and 1980s. But yesterday's *Inflation Report* from the Bank of England was quite consistent with this rosy picture, even if it did suggest that at least one further interest hike would be necessary, presumably to 7.25 per cent.

To take the bad news first — interest rates will have to rise at least one more time, if only to break the confounded "asymmetry" in the Bank's inflation forecasts. The Bank keeps stressing that the risk of inflation exceeding its 2.5 per cent central projection are greater than the chances of it undershooting. And even though this "asymmetry" is now said to be less than it was three months ago, we cannot expect Eddie George to be satisfied until he can put his hand on his heart and say that the risks are evenly balanced or, better still, skewed towards the downside.

The good news is that one more rise in interest rates — presumably of half a point, since anything less would seem indecisive while anything greater would smack of panic — might be enough to achieve this happy result. The *Inflation Report* suggests several reasons for such optimism. First, there is the slowdown in the economy. GDP growth decelerated from over 4 per cent in the the first half of last year to only 3 per cent in the second half. Second, there is the evidence of history. While 7 per cent may seem a low interest rate by the standards of the 1970s and 1980s, it is worth noting that Bank Rate never once went above 7 per cent from 1945 until the devaluation crisis of 1967 — and never exceeded 8 per cent until 1972. This is no mere historical curiosity. The fact is that the 2 to 3 per cent inflation the Bank is aiming for is incompatible with interest rates much above 7 per cent. If interest rates stay much above 7 per cent for long, this can only be because the Bank has failed in its effort to achieve permanently low inflation.

Third, there is a technical quirk in the inflation target itself. The Bank's central projection for inflation excluding mortgage interest (known as RPIX) is "just under 2.5 per cent" at the end of 1996. This may seem disconcertingly close to the top of the effective target range, which is now 1 to 2.5 per cent. However, the Bank has always favoured another measure of inflation — "RPIY", which excludes indirect taxes, as well as mortgage interest. The RPIY projection for late 1996 is only 2 per cent. With the Chancellor due to announce a new inflation target to go beyond the general election some time this year, the chances are that attention will (quite rightly) be refocused from RPIX on to RPIY. This overdue shift would make it clearer than ever that Britain is well on course to realising Mr George's dream of a virtually non-inflationary economy.



One law for the powerful

☐ POSTEL'S letter to the regional electricity companies could hardly be more pompously polite: "We have an interest in improving the absolute level of profitability and success of all British industry ... potentially supportive long-term investor ... not intimating any dissatisfaction with management." But the institutional heavy mob is clearly on the march. PosTel has already joined others to demand that Northern Electric end the 15 per cent limit on shareholdings that has proved so tiresome for Trafalgar House. Now it wants the other 11 to follow suit, to save time and trouble for anyone who wants to take them over too.

According to PosTel, allowing these limits to continue would be "a distortion of the market". This little piece of political correctness is straight out of the little red book of economic "theories" commissioned by Wall Street. In those terms, it is indisputable. But these "theories" presume perfect financial markets based on perfect information and disinterested investors. This lies some way from reality. The 15 per cent rule would be a distortion if it could not be removed at shareholders' behest. In the case of the Recs, a waiver merely requires 75 per cent of votes cast. In other words, a bidder cannot simply buy 29.9 per cent in the market and rely on enough institutions accepting an offer to get to 50 per cent. A bid has to win general support.

A 75 per cent threshold is likely to require a higher bid, which is not necessarily, as PosTel would have it, "against the interests of shareholders as a whole". There are twelve Recs. Institutional investors see them as largely homogeneous. A high bid price would make a good precedent but even a modest premium would be welcome, since proceeds could be reinvested in other Recs. The 75 per cent redresses this oddity and pushes up the required bid premium.

The interests of shareholders are not identical. A 75 per cent hurdle gives some say to private investors, who are normally impotent. The usual 50 per cent allows institutions and bidders to fix things to suit themselves and ignore private investors. Rec boards should ponder the true effect of PosTel's demand and then politely refuse it.

Trouble on the starting Grid

☐ REPORTS of the death of the National Grid flotation are highly premature and likely to cause unnecessary suffering among those millions of private shareholders who are looking forward to something for nothing this summer.

At least one of the regional electricity companies is creeping round the City making the poor analysts' flesh creep with suggestions that the various parties are so much at loggerheads that they will never reach agreement in time for the expected float in June. This would deprive the City of a fat wage packet and, more to the point, send share prices in the electricity sector plummeting like meteors.

Three others — and fingers have been pointed at Yorkshire, Eastern and Southern, here — are proving excessively obdurate over the amount that will need to be paid out to the customers to keep them sweet.

Bargaining between the industry and the massed ranks of the Treasury/DTI/Inland Revenue is hard, but there is every expectation that the issues should finally be resolved. The customers' hand-outs should not prove a sticking point — the industry can easily afford the £460 million that a £20-a-household payment would cost.

The problem is over tax, which the industry is keen to minimise on the sale, and the position of the tax-exempt funds that receive the shares. Anyone who has ever had to argue with the Revenue, which holds the whip hand and will, in the end, rule on whatever scheme is proposed, will extend to the industry every sympathy.

War losses

☐ JAPAN overtook America to be top official aid donor in 1993-94, according to the OECD's development assistance committee, but only because American aid fell faster than Japan's. Emergencies and peacekeeping, the product of civil wars, took the money that should have been aiding development. France, giving at double the average rate, alone realises that aid is a good investment for its own firms.

Writedowns leave Amstrad with a profit of £25,000

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EXPENSIVE writedowns on a wide range of electronic items left Alan Sugar's Amstrad barely scraping into a profit in the first six months of the financial year, and provided further indications of grim Christmas trading in the high street.

Amstrad made just £25,000 at the pre-tax level in the six months to December 31, down from £1.75 million. An operating loss of £8.35 million from continuing operations came almost entirely from the consumer electronics business, once the core of the group, but increasingly less important. There were £5.3 million writedowns on inventories at the end of December. But acquisitions made by the group, such as Viglen, the computer concern, bought last year, contributed £5.62 million of profit. Amstrad's £136 million cash pile, little changed despite an initial £30 million paid for Viglen, contributed another £2.75 million.

Amstrad is maintaining its 1p interim, despite losses per share of 0.2p, against profits of 1p. David Rogers, the chief executive, said reorganisation was in progress at the consumer electronics side. "The short-term steps to stop the bleeding and get tight control are under way."

The problem had been falling sales and further pressure on margins in an attempt to stimulate business. The main downturn was in computers and satellite dishes in Britain and Germany. Within consumer electronics, said Mr Sugar, the chairman, "long-term success depends on the work we still have to do in the new product area."

Mr Sugar reassured shareholders that no sharp downturn was expected in the second half and no significant losses at the financial year-end. Traditionally for Amstrad, the first half has been the most important, because it contains figures for the Christmas sales season.

Mr Sugar said: "The nature of Amstrad's business has however changed to such an extent that seasonal factors are not as significant, and as such I feel that the half-year position should be maintained in the second half."

The news sparked some advance in Amstrad's shares, which rose throughout the day to end 8p higher at 141p. Mr Sugar accepted that the group's cash pile left it "all dressed up with nowhere to go — not what shareholders in public companies want." Further acquisitions were a possibility, therefore.

But Amstrad, which now sells its computers and faxes direct to the public, sees no prospect for immediate recovery in the high street. The market for consumer electronics remained "especially difficult," especially for mature products such as video and audio equipment, Mr Sugar said.



Alan Sugar is holding the interim despite falling sales

Tempus, page 28

SG Warburg replaces its defecting financiers

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TWO key corporate financiers who defected from SG Warburg to Morgan Grenfell this week have been hurriedly replaced with one of their bosses, David Hobley, a long-time Warburg employee. Mr Hobley will now have responsibility for Warburg's equity capital markets operation, which had been run by Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs.

Mr Thompson and Mr Cohrs are joining the new investment banking operation being set up by Morgan Grenfell and its parent, Deutsche Bank, in London. The two leaving Warburg have unusually short notice periods to work out. Mr Thompson was on three months' notice, and Mr Cohrs on just one month.

A Warburg spokesman said that Mr Hobley had worked closely with the equity capital market group in the past on large equity issuing mandates.

Warburg's shares tumbled on news of the pair's departure. Yesterday, they closed down 12p at 736p. The bank's independence has been uncertain since the failure of merger talks with Morgan Stanley late last year.

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UK workers fare well in pay survey

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE take-home pay of British production workers is among the highest in Europe, according to a study by the Department of Employment.

Adjusted for Britain's low living costs, unmarried production workers in the UK are the best-off in Europe, the study found. Married workers in former West Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg fared better than their British counterparts thanks to higher social benefits, but elsewhere in Europe, production workers were not able to enjoy comparable living standards.

However, the findings, based on figures for the years 1990 to 1993 collected by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, show that production workers in Australia, Canada, Japan and the US were better off than any in Europe.

According to the study, published in today's *Employment Gazette*, the high level of pay in the UK is mainly a reflection of "the relatively low cost of living in the UK compared to other northern European countries". But the researchers add: "Even in a comparison based on market exchange rates, however, UK gross pay would still be higher than France and Spain, though still some way behind West Germany and The Netherlands." Relatively low income taxes also favour UK workers, they say.

According to the study, the average take-home pay of an unmarried British production worker in 1993 was £10,538. Only workers in Luxembourg, earning on average £11,459, did better. A typical single German worker averaged £9,713, while his French counterpart made £8,036.

A typical two-child family with one production worker earner in Britain had a net income of £11,909. That compared with £12,034 in West Germany, £9,551 in France, and £15,412 in Luxembourg.

Tarmac and BP chiefs to join Bank

BY GEORGE SIVELL
ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, and David Simon, chief executive of British Petroleum, were yesterday appointed directors of the Bank of England by the Government. They will hold office for four years from March 1. It was also revealed that Sir David Lees and Sir Colin Southgate will be reappointed for four years but that Sir Martin Jacomb and Sir Colin Corness will step down on February 28.

Mr Simon, 55, has just steered BP through a difficult patch after a fall in oil prices and soaring debts necessitated large cuts at the oil company. Mr Simms nursed Tarmac, the builder and contractor, through the recession and was instrumental in settling the dispute between Eurotunnel, builder and operator of the Channel Tunnel rail link, and its contractors, of which Tarmac was one.



STOCK MARKET — MICHAEL CLARK

Big buyer stalks Amstrad shares after profit slide

WHILE **Amstrad**, Alan Sugar's consumer electronics group, was unveiling half-year figures to the City, a large buyer was stalking the shares in the derivatives market.

Brokers claim his presence was largely responsible for yesterday's 8p rise in the share price to 141p as almost 2.5 million shares changed hands. But on the traded options market turnover was a lot higher, with attention directed at the June 150 series, where 19,350 contracts were recorded alone, equivalent to 3.87 million shares. Traders said NatWest Securities, the broker, was bidding in the market place for up to 25,000 contracts, which in this case was equivalent to 5 million shares. Normally one contract is equal to 1,000 shares.

NatWest was only able to complete some of its business before the rest of the market was alerted. Whispers began circulating that NatWest was acting for Cazenove. But what Cazenove's interest in the shares could be remained unclear. It is unlikely to have been impressed with Amstrad's interim figures, which showed a further deterioration in pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to just £25,000.

The rest of the equity market marked time for most of the day. The FT-SE 100 index closed a 0.2 down at 3,072.5, having been 12 points off earlier in the day. Turnover was 528 million shares.

The inflation report from the Bank of England was seen as mildly disappointing. Investors also expressed concern about another lacklustre performance from the pound. But the real focus of attention will be today's trade figures.

Meanwhile, Edmond Warner at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is telling clients to buy equities. He expects the market to "burst up" out of its trading range soon, and says it could prove costly for those investors who miss the boat.

There was a further flurry of speculative activity in **Northern Electric**, currently the target of an unwanted bid from **Trafalgar House**, ½p lighter at 66½p. The Northern share price climbed 12p to 971p as Swiss Bank Corporation, an adviser to Trafalgar House, continued adding to its holding. According to Northern, it now speaks for 5.9 million shares, or 5.14 per cent. Swiss Bank says it holds the shares in its role as a market-maker. Northern continues to urge shareholders to reject the bid, claiming that Trafalgar is trying to buy the company on the cheap. Northern says the terms do not reflect the benefits of its stake in the National Grid, or any special dividends from the Grid in the run-up to its stock market flotation.



The market thinks Budgen could be a German bid target

The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to rule soon whether the bid for Northern can proceed, opening the floodgates to a series of bids in the sector which are expected to materialise at some stage. **Yorkshire**, 14p dearer at 808p, is seen as another takeover favourite, with its name persistently linked to that of **Hanson**, 2p better at 238p.

Budgen, the supermarket chain, jumped 2½p to 30p in heavy trading which saw more than 10 million shares change hands. The company said it knew of no reason for the rise. But stories circulating within the Square Mile suggest that Rewe, the German retailer and the company's biggest shareholder, has grown disenchanted with the way the company is being run and might be looking to bid for the company. Only last week Budgens announced plans to axe its chain of Penny Market stores, a concept which Rewe is said to have had a part in introducing. Five of the stores were sold to Lidl, a rival German retailer.

The takeover spotlight seems to have shifted from **SG Warburg** for the time being as the price slipped 12p to 736p.

BT lost 8½p at 396p ahead of third-quarter figures today. Reasons included a last-minute profits downgrading by Warburg Securities and a placing of a large line of shares by UBS. One market-maker is nursing a bad position in the shares and is being offered little scope to repair the damage by his rivals.



Speculators appear to be growing tired of waiting for fresh developments after the breakdown in merger talks between Warburg and Morgan Stanley. Now the focus of attention has moved to **Schroders**, which stood out with a rise of 40p to £15.23.

The shock waves from the inquiry initiated by the Office of Fair Trading into the differential in wholesale beer prices continued to be felt. Sellers directed their attention at the regional brewers, with losses recorded in **Greenalls**, down 15p at 414p, **Greene King**, 22p at 486p, **Mansfield Brewery**, 5p at 239p, **Marston Thompson**, 12p at 284p, **Morland**, 5p at 453p, **Vaux Group**, 9p at 216p,and **Wolverhampton & Dudley**, 15p at 487p. News of the inquiry, announced on Tuesday, also hit the pub retailers. Having already forced Century Inns to postpone its stock market flotation, it also left **JD Wetherspoon** 11p off at 461p and **Boddington** 4p easier at 244p.

Lloyds Abbey Life, which is 63 per cent owned by Lloyds Bank and was the subject of intense bid speculation recently, finished 6p lower at 358p after reporting full-year figures at the bottom end of City expectations. Pre-tax profits dipped 2 per cent to £315.6 million after a sharp rise in provisions from £20.5 million to £59.6 million to cover possible payouts to personal pension customers. **Lloyds Bank**, unveiling interim figures tomorrow, firmed 5p to 550p.

□ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts came in for an early bout of profit-taking after Tuesday's useful gains. But selling pressure was easily contained and the Bank of England managed to exhaust supplies of the latest issue of floating rate stock Treasury 1999.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt traded in narrow limits before closing £5/32 cheaper at £102 13/32 as a total of 72,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dipped £7/32 to £96 5/16, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent eased £⅛ to £97 29/32.

□ **NEW YORK**: US shares rose in morning trading on Wall Street as investors awaited the outcome of the auction of $12 billion in ten-year notes. Hi-tech shares were strong. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.79 points higher at 3,950.18.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3950.18 (+12.79)
S&P Composite	482.49 (+1.68)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18290.25 (-210.30)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	7934.83 (-69.18)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	413.53 (-0.60)
Sydney:	
AO	1823.3 (-22.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2087.62 (-4.87)
Singapore:	
Straits	2091.62 (-27.18)
Brussels:	
General	7071.83 (-40.91)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1852.59 (-17.85)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	631.40 (+0.10)
London:	
FT 30	2337.7 (+4.7)
FT 100	3072.5 (-0.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3415.1 (+8.0)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1334.40 (-6.07)
FT A All-Share	1513.65 (+0.60)
FT Non Financials	1641.62 (+0.09)
FT Gold Mines	194.4 (-4.30)
FT Fixed Interest	110.45 (+0.71)
FT Govt Secs	91.80 (-0.32)
Bargains	19972
SEAQ Volume	528.7m
USM (Datastrm)	148.12 (+0.11)
US$	1.5528 (-0.0042)
German Mark	2.3784 (-0.0124)
Exchange Index	78.6 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2529
£:SDR	1.0638
RPI	146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

First Russ Fts ($10)	570	...
Grtmre Micro Index	96	...
Grtmre Micro Wts	41	...
Lazard Birla Ida	53¼	+¼
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	31½	...
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Matheson Llds IT	81	...
Pentex Oil	90	...
Wessex Trust	10¼	...
Woodchstr Uts	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cadbury Schws n/p	70	+1
Dares Estates n/p (4)	¼	...
Verity n/p (7½)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Kleinwort Ben	627p (+7p)
Lloyds	551p (+6p)
Schroders	1523p (+40p)
BTR	314p (+7p)
Amstrad	141p (+8p)
Kode	69p (+11p)
Tadpole Tech	230p (+11p)
GKN	582p (+13p)
Laird	322p (+11p)
AAH	298p (+8p)
Gen Accident	526p (+7p)
Lowndes Lmb	160p (+12p)
Thomson Corp	765p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Nat Aust Bank	503p (-21p)
SG Warburg	736p (-12p)
Greenalls Grp	414p (-15p)
Greene King	485p (-23p)
Morland	450p (-8p)
JD Wetherspoon	461p (-11p)
Waste Mng Intl	323p (-22p)
Laporte	659p (-8p)
Broken Hill	870p (-15p)
Graseby	125p (-8p)
Renold	181p (-7p)
JLI Grp	70p (-13p)
Tate & Lyle	427p (-8p)
Amersham	775p (-20p)
Lloyds Abbey	356p (-8p)
MAM	764p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Abbey crunch

LLOYDS Abbey Life has spent five years going nowhere. In 1989, the group generated earnings per share of 29.8p for its excited shareholders, who were swept along by the group's vision of selling life assurance to millions of Lloyds Bank customers. Yesterday, the group produced earnings of . . . er . . . 29.8p, for its older and wiser investors who have seen the group dogged by an endless run of losses and provisions in its different businesses.

The problems stem from its takeover by Lloyds in 1989. Some prolonged horse-trading between Lloyds and Abbey Life created a hybrid life assurer and finance house, 63 per cent owned by Lloyds. As a result, the company enjoyed none of the benefits of the life industry in the recession since it was wrestling with the losses at Lloyds Bowmaker and Black Horse estate agencies. Now that the economic recovery has pulled Bowmaker back into profit, the group is suffering the backlash from pensions mis-selling in the life industry. All the benefits from the development of Black Horse Financial Services, the life assurer for Lloyds Bank customers, have been lost in successive provisions. There is a chance that Lloyds Abbey will fire on all cylinders one day, and the absence of any provisions would catapult earnings towards 40p. But Trans Leben, the German life assurance subsidiary, and estate agency now look like habitual loss-makers so the chances of the group producing an unblemished profit and loss account look slim.

In addition, the group is already being left behind in the development of the financial services market. Other banks are integrating their banking and financial services sales forces, which Lloyds cannot do since Lloyds Abbey is a separate entity. While the two companies are not in talks, Lloyds must want to buy in the minority holding.

In the meantime, Lloyds Abbey's management must try to create what value they can out of the mixed bag of businesses they have inherited. At least the group's cash flow is string enough to keep the dividend rising. But that is poor recompense for capital growth, and the dividend yield of 6.8 per cent is a demonstration of the market's jaundiced view of the stock.

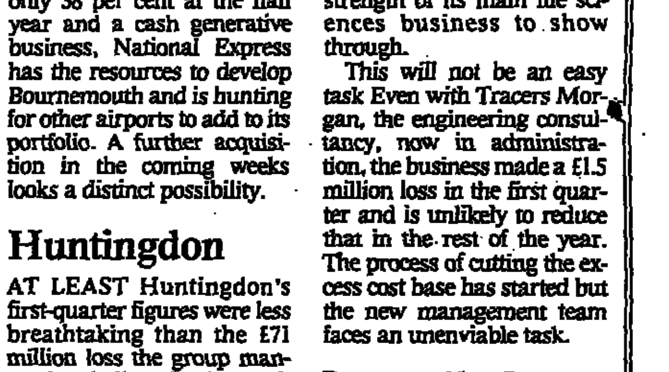
Amstrad

ALAN SUGAR'S almost legendary brusqueness should not blind observers to his equally prominent skills. Whether this is sufficient reason to invest in his company is another matter.

Mr Sugar says rightly that he foresaw the drama currently being played out among the electrical retailers. Comet had a terrible Christmas, Dixons' was mixed and Thorn EMI has taken an axe to the perennially loss-making Rumbelows chain. If retailers catch a cold, the people who produce the goods go down with double pneumonia. This is the logic behind Amstrad's decision to sell its computers and faxes direct to the public.

The reorganisation and purchases of recent times have left Amstrad's consumer electronics business as a small, if underperforming, part of the whole. The future lies in the performance of acquisitions, such as Viglen and Dancall and in new products, such as the fax machine using bubble-jet printing technology and the next generation of portable phones from Dancall.

This year, Amstrad is likely to break even or manage a miniscule profit. The company has net assets of £180 million and £136 million in the bank, which means that of the 138p share price, about 120p of this is cash. Clearly there is not much in the share price for the potential of future product launches. Just as clearly, that potential is unproven. The shares are a plain punt.



National Express

BEING Britain's second largest airport operator is rather like coming second in a cricket match, since the market leader is BAA, which has a stranglehold on all the airports of any decent size in the country. But this has not deterred National Express in its efforts to build an airports business alongside its better known coach services.

Bournemouth International Airport runs a surprising number of scheduled services to Europe and has room for expansion which would allow it to accept transatlantic traffic. This sets it apart from BAA's Southampton airport which is constricted.

The opposition to further expansion of Heathrow and Gatwick, coupled with likely growth in air traffic in the next few years should provide the smaller airports in southeast England with considerable opportunities. Some of the additional traffic may well switch to them if they have the facilities to handle it. With gearing of only 38 per cent at the half year and a cash generative business, National Express has the resources to develop Bournemouth and is hunting for other airports to add to its portfolio. A further acquisition in the coming weeks looks a distinct possibility.

Huntingdon

AT LEAST Huntingdon's first-quarter figures were less breathtaking than the £71 million loss the group managed to chalk up for the previous year, but it still faces a long struggle back to commercial health as the £149,000 pre-tax loss shows. The main difficulty for the group is to minimise the damage from its loss-making engineering and environmental division to allow the strength of its main life sciences business to show through.

This will not be an easy task Even with Tracers Morgan, the engineering consultancy, now in administration, the business made a £1.5 million loss in the first quarter and is unlikely to reduce that in the rest of the year. The process of cutting the excess cost base has started but the new management team faces an unenviable task.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1001-1000	May	1047-1043
May	1001-1000	Jul	1057-1053
Jul	1010-1009	Sep	1065-1062
Sep	1020-1019	Dec	1079 SLR
Dec	1031-1028		
Mar	1040-1038		Volume: 4989

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2780-2775	Nov	2669-2660
May	2710-2705	Jan	2675-2665
Jul	2685-2680	Mar	2675-2665
Sep	2674-2672		Volume: 4560

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	346.6-45.9
Spot: 395.0		Dec	343.1-41.9
Mar	394.0-93.7	Mar	340.0-37.9
May	386.2-85.9	May	339.5-35.9
Aug	372.6-72.0		Volume: 4629

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 7

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	86.68	120.31	119.85
(+/-)	+2.31	+0.68	+1.61
Eng/Wales:	87.29	120.62	118.39
(+/-)	+2.67	+1.25	+1.78
(%)	-11.0	+10.0	+5.0
Scotland:	82.86	118.61	124.75
(+/-)	+1.48	-2.43	+1.11
(%)	+64.0	+3.0	+4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.85	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.10	n/c
Brent 15 day (Apr)	16.50	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.30	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.10	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	B:	O:
Premium Gas .15	162 (+2)	165 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	145 (-4)	146 (-4)
Non EEC 1H Mar	147 (-3)	148 (-3)
Non EEC 1H Apr	148 (-3)	149 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	104 (+1)	105 (n/c)
Naphtha	166 (+1)	168 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Feb	143.00-43.25	May	146.00-46.25
Mar	145.00-45.25	Jun	146.50-46.75
Apr	146.00-46.25		Vol: 28322

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	17.07-17.09	Jun	16.34 BID
Apr	16.50-16.52	Jul	16.29-16.34
May	16.40-16.43		Vol: 46808

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.90	Mar	102.75
May	110.35	May	104.00
Jul	111.70	Sep	97.15
Sep	98.90	Nov	99.20
Nov	99.85	Jan	100.85
Volume: 241		Volume: 12	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	324.0	298.3
May	unq	325.5
Jun		unq
		Volume: 499

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 122.75-123.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 95	2050	1995	2038
Mar 95	2045	2010	2035
Apr 95	2027	2000	2027
Jul 95	1780	1750	1765
Vol: 557 lots		Open Interest: 3331	

Index 1965 +8

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2814.0-2815.0	2806.0-2807.0	1648550
Lead ($/tonne)	550.00-551.00	570.00-570.50	371525
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	997.50-998.50	1024.0-1025.0	868700
Tin ($/tonne)	5285.0-5295.0	5370.0-5375.0	32325
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1856.5-1857.0	1899.0-1900.0	1422500
Nickel ($/tonne)	7970.0-7980.0	8100.0-8110.0	126024

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom.	500	28½	36	47½	9½	19½	33
(*514)	550	7	13	24	38½	49	51½
Argyll	260	25	31	32½	3	9	11
(*278)	280	13	19	21½	10½	18	20
ASDA	60	9	11	12	0½	1½	2½
(*68)	70	2½	5	6	4	5½	6½
Boots	460	29½	38	42½	6½	16	19½
(*476)	500	9½	17½	23½	27	37½	40
Br Airways	360	33	41½	45½	5	12½	16
(*384)	390	15	24	31½	17	26½	30
BP	390	35½	43	48½	4	9	11
(*419½)	420	16	25	31	14½	20½	22½
Br Steel	140	15	19	21½	2	4½	6
(*151½)	160	4	8½	11½	11	14	15
C & W	390	20½	30½	38½	12	20	25
(*394)	420	7½	16½	25	29½	37	41½
CU	493	16½	—	—	21½	—	—
(*499½)	543	3	—	—	60½	—	—
ICI	700	54	64½	70½	10½	18	24½
(*746½)	750	20	37	44	34	41½	47½
Kingfishr	420	27	33	38½	10	21½	26
(*429½)	460	9½	14½	21½	33½	46	49
Land Sec	550	38	46	50	4½	14½	18½
(*578)	600	11	17½	23½	26	42½	46½
M & S	390	18½	24½	31	10	16½	19
(*394)	420	6	11	17½	28	34	36
Nat West	460	32½	41½	47	13	17½	25½
(*486½)	500	12	22	28	35	39	46½
Sainsbury	420	20½	29	36	9	18	21
(*426½)	460	4½	11½	18½	34½	42½	44
Shell	700	31	42½	53	15	19½	25
(*720½)	750	8	18½	28½	46½	49	53½
Smkl Bch	460	36½	46½	54½	7	13	17½
(*489)	500	14	24½	33½	24½	31	36
Storehse	220	17	21	24	3	6½	8½
(*229½)	240	7	10	14	13	18½	18½
Trafalgar	60	9	11½	13	1½	3	3½
(*66½)	70	3½	6	8	6	7	8
Unilever	1150	44	64	86	28½	40	45½
(*1168½)	1200	19	40	60½	59	68	73
Zeneca	850	57½	73½	87½	20	24½	31
(*894)	900	28½	47	61	45	48½	54½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met.	360	17	29	33½	0½	6	9½
(*376)	390	1	11½	17	14½	19½	23½
Ladbroke	160	14	17	21½	0½	5	8½
(*173½)	180	1	7	12	8	14½	18½
Utd Bisc	330	10	19	24½	2	14½	20½
(*339½)	360	1	6½	13½	21½	35½	39½

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	450	20	—	—	11	—	—
(*454½)	475	8½	—	—	26½	—	—
Thames W	460	26	34	38½	8½	22	36
(*470)	500	8	16½	20½	33	47	50
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	420	36½	44½	48	0	9½	16½
(*456)	460	5	17½	26	8½	28	36½
BTR	300	15	19	26½	1½	9	12
(*314)	330	0½	6	13	17	27½	29½
Br Aero	448	25½	38	—	1	15	—
(*472½)	487	2	18	—	17	34½	—
Br Telcm	390	7½	21½	29	2	10½	18
(*395½)	420	0	8	14½	24½	27½	35
Cadbury	409	7½	22	34	2½	12	15½
(*412)	447	0	8	16½	35	36½	37½
Guinness	420	9	19	28½	2	15½	18½
(*427)	460	0	4½	12½	33	43	45
GEC	280	14½	23½	28½	0½	4	9½
(*294)	300	1½	11½	17	7½	12½	19
Hanson	220	18½	21	24	0	3	6
(*238)	240	2	9	13	4	10½	14½
LASMO	140	17½	20½	24½	0	2½	4
(*157)	160	2½	8½	13	5½	10	12
Lucas	180	8	15	21½	1	7	9½
(*187)	200	0	6½	12½	13	18½	20½
Pilkingtn	140	11	15½	19	0½	3½	6
(*150)	160	1	5½	9	10½	13	16
Prudential	300	7	14	20½	2½	14	18
(*305)	330	0	3½	9½	25	36	38
Redland	420	19½	29	35½	1	18½	22½
(*438)	460	1	9½	16½	23	43½	47½
R-Royce	160	3	9½	14½	2	9½	12
(*160½)	180	0	3	7	19½	23½	25
Tesco	240	10½	18	21	1	8	9½
(*249½)	260	1	7½	11	11	18	20
Vodafone	183	10½	—	—	0	—	—
(*192½)	200	1½	9½	14	7½	12½	16
Williams	330	12½	22½	27½	1	11	15
(*341½)	360	0	8	13½	18½	29½	33

FT-SE INDEX (*3071)

	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200
Calls						
Feb	133	86½	44½	16	4½	1
Mar	146½	105½	72	44½	25	12½
Apr	163	126	97	70½	48½	32½
May	179½	146½	116½	90½	68½	50½
Jun	—	163	—	107	—	65
Puts						
Feb	2½	7	16	39	80	130
Mar	18	27½	43	66½	97½	137
Apr	37½	52	71½	95	123	157½
May	47	63	83	107	135	168
Jun	—	77	—	121½	—	179

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	420	19½	26½	32½	10	17½	22½
(*433)	460	4	10½	16	39½	43	46½
Amstrad	125	18	21	—	1	3	—
(*140½)	150	4½	9	—	12½	15	—
Barclays	550	54	61½	70½	3½	11½	19½
(*599½)	600	17	31½	42	22½	32	41
Blue Circ	280	10	18½	26½	8½	18½	23
(*281)	300	3	10½	18½	21½	31½	35½
Br Gas	300	13½	21	25½	4	12½	15
(*308½)	330	2½	7½	12	22	31	33½
Dixons	200	18½	26	29½	2	6	9
(*215½)	220	6½	15	18½	10	14½	19½
Forte	240	10	17	22	5	12½	15
(*243½)	260	2½	8	13½	17½	24½	27
Hillsdwn	160	16½	19½	21½	0½	5	7½
(*175)	180	3½	7½	11	7½	15½	18
Lonrho	140	13½	19	21½	1	4	6½
(*151½)	160	2½	8	11	10	13½	16
Sears	100	5½	8½	9½	2	5	6
(*102½)	110	1½	4	5	8	11½	12
Thrn Emi	1000	51	80	90½	7	19	35½
(*1037½)	1050	19½	49½	60½	26	39	58½
Tomkins	220	17	25½	28½	1½	5½	10
(*234½)	240	5	13½	17½	9½	14	20
TSB	240	11½	22½	25½	7½	13½	17½
(*249)	260	5	13½	17	20	25	28½
Wellcome	1000	44½	57½	71	30	41½	52½
(*1016½)	1050	21½	34½	46½	61	69½	80
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo	650	26½	47	55	27½	37	50
(*653½)	700	10	26½	34	62½	68	80
HSBC	650	33	48	60½	29	42½	51
(*663½)	700	12½	27	40½	63	73½	81
Reuter	420	40	52	60½	6½	12	15½
(*454½)	460	16½	29	38½	23½	29	32½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Jul**	**Feb**	**May**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	260	18	24½	29½	0½	9½	12
(*277½)	280	3	14	19	6	19	21½
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Fisons	100	11½	16	21	1½	7	8
(*109)	110	6½	11	16½	5½	11½	12½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Eastern Gp	650	38½	64	77	2	16	28
(*666½)	700	7	36	50	21	37½	52½
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Natl Pwr	460	23½	36	43½	6	18½	23½
(*479)	500	4½	16	24½	28	41	45½
Scot Pwr	330	13½	26	31	7	13½	20
(*338)	360	2½	12½	17	26½	31	37

February 8, 1995 Tot: 53033 Call: 36375 Put: 15658 FT-SE Call: 4860 Put: 3813
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3072.0	3089.0	3064.0	3080.0	8517
Previous open interest: 64618	Jun 95	3082.0	3090.0	3075.0	3089.5	101
FT-SE 250	Mar 95	3400.0	3410.0	3400.0	3405.0	64
Previous open interest: 4044	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	93.00	93.03	92.98	92.98	13619
Previous open interest: 449883	Jun 95	92.37	92.43	92.32	92.34	33416
	Sep 95	91.94	92.00	91.89	91.93	11362
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95				93.58	0
Previous open interest: 2437	Jun 95				93.03	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.80	94.85	94.80	94.83	21134
Previous open interest: 769244	Jun 95	94.44	94.51	94.43	94.48	49702
Long Gilt	Mar 95	102-19	102-25	102-10	102-13	72211
Previous open interest: 94625	Jun 95	102-26	102-27	102-18	102-19	57
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.59	108.71	108.54	108.67	2184
	Jun 95	107.85	107.96	107.83	107.95	233
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	90.85	91.08	90.75	90.81	150756
Previous open interest: 219908	Jun 95	90.32	90.45	90.23	90.25	3251
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.72	93.77	93.72	93.78	773
Previous open interest: 24430	Jun 95	93.24	93.30	93.24	93.30	560
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	95.92	95.98	95.88	95.88	5467
Previous open interest: 44123	Jun 95	95.60	95.65	95.58	95.58	3904
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	100.59	100.76	100.44	100.64	24240
Previous open interest: 56730	Jun 95	99.65	99.65	99.65	99.76	49

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½. Sell: 2 mth 6⅜; 3 mth: 6⅜.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6½-6 7/16	6 9/16-6 15/32	6¾-6½	6⅞-6¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 9/16-6½	6 11/16-6⅝	6¾-6 11/16	7¼-7	7 11/16-7½
Interbank:	6 9/16-6½	6 11/16-6⅝	6⅞-6 11/16	7¼-7	7 11/16-7½

Overnight: open 6¾, close 7½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6½	n/a	6 11/16	7	7 11/16
Sterling CDs:	6½-6½	6⅝-6⅝	6 11/16-6⅝	7⅛-6 15/16	7⅝-7½
Dollar CDs:	6.04-6.01	n/a	6.16-6.13	6.45-6.42	7.04-7.01
Building Society CDs:	6 9/16-6½	6 11/16-6⅝	6¾-6 11/16	7¼-7	7⅝-7 9/16

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 31, 1995 Agreed rates Feb 26, 1995to Mar 25, 1995 Scheme III: 7.87%. Reference rate Dec 31, 1994to Jan 31, 1995 Scheme IV & V: 6.624%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5⅞	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6	6⅝-6½	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	4 15/16-4 13/16	4 15/16-4¾	5⅛-5	5½-5⅜	5¼-4¼
French Franc:	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	5 15/16-5¾	6-5⅞	6-5
Swiss Franc:	3¼-3	3⅜-3¼	3⅝-3½	4¼-4	4¼-3¼
Yen:	2¼-2	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2¼	2½-2¼	2¼-1¼

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $374.30-374.70 Close: $374.60-375.10 High: $375.00-375.50 Low: $374.10-374.60 AM: $374.80 PM: $374.60

Krugerrand: $374.25-376.25 (£240.75-242.75)

Platinum: $409.00 (£263.45) Silver: $4.67 (£3.005) Palladium: $156.00 (£100.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6629-2.6781	2.6629-2.6781	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅞pr
Brussels	48.87-49.18	48.87-48.97	7-3pr	19-12pr
Copenhagen	9.3480-9.4040	9.3530-9.3680	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅛pr
Dublin	1.0042-1.0078	1.0042-1.0069	8-5pr	17-13pr
Frankfurt	2.3760-2.3894	2.3776-2.3808	⅛-⅛pr	1-⅞pr
Lisbon	244.82-246.56	244.82-245.46	37-54ds	158-201ds
Madrid	204.50-205.93	204.50-204.80	23-33ds	89-109ds
Milan	2506.20-2519.90	2506.70-2510.00	2-5ds	11-14ds
Montreal	2.1634-2.1764	2.1644-2.1674	0.16-0.25ds	0.36-0.49ds
New York	1.5500-1.5572	1.5520-1.5530	0.06-0.04pr	0.18-0.16pr
Oslo	10.3970-10.4520	10.4010-10.4160	1⅛-1pr	4⅛-2⅞pr
Paris	8.2190-8.2700	8.2200-8.2350	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅞pr
Stockholm	11.5730-11.6330	11.5770-11.6010	⅛-1⅛ds	3-4⅛ds
Tokyo	153.45-154.63	153.49-153.75	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	16.72-16.82	16.73-16.76	2⅛-1⅛pr	7⅛-7⅛pr
Zurich	2.0102-2.0232	2.0120-2.0149	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr

Source: Extel. Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3422-1.3440
Austria	10.76-10.77
Belgium (Com)	31.46-31.47
Canada	1.3985-1.3990
Denmark	6.0185-6.0215
France	5.2920-5.2935
Germany	1.5292-1.5297
Hong Kong	7.7310-7.7320
Ireland	1.5445-1.5460
Italy	1613.00-1614.00
Japan	98.75-98.85
Malaysia	2.5500-2.5510
Netherlands	1.7138-1.7143
Norway	6.6925-6.6955
Portugal	157.65-157.75
Singapore	1.4545-1.4555
Spain	131.63-131.78
Sweden	7.4510-7.4585
Switzerland	1.2935-1.2945

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5528-1.5554
Australia dollar	2.0859-2.0883
Bahrain dinar	0.5805-0.5925
Brazil real*	1.2969-1.3009
Cyprus pound	0.7335-0.7435
Finland markka	7.320-7.436
Greece drachma	369.25-376.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.0124-12.0217
India rupee	48.33-49.29
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4605-0.4705
Malaysia ringgit	3.9622-3.9663
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4644-2.4679
Pakistan rupee	47.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.775-5.901
Singapore dollar	2.2592-2.2623
S Africa rand (fin)	6.1288-6.1639
S Africa rand (com)	5.5105-5.5164
U A E dirham	5.655-5.779

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	451	Legal & Gn	816
ASDA Gp	13,000	Lloyds Bk	3,500
Abbey Natl	1,700	MEPC	327
Alld Dom	440	Marks Spr	2,600
Argyll Gp	4,800	NatWst Bk	4,400
Arjo Wiggn	1,500	Nat Power	2,300
AB Foods	385	Nth Wst W	231
BAA	2,000	P & O	1,200
BAT Inds	5,100	Pearson	1,200
BOC	630	PowerGen	843
BP	3,200	Prudential	1,500
BTR	8,400	RMC	745
BT	19,000	RTZ	2,400
Bk of Scot	2,400	Rank Org	2,200
Barclays	7,000	Reckitt Col	662
Bass	1,800	Redland	942
Blue Circle	1,200	Reed Intl	1,300
Boots	4,100	Rentokil	2,400
Bowater	1,300	Reuters	3,300
Brit Aero	2,100	Rolls Royce	390
Brit Airwys	6,300	Ryl Ins	2,400
Brit Gas	5,900	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Brit Steel	4,200	Sainsbury	838
Burmah Ctrol	389	Schroders	25
Cable Wire	2,100	Scot & New	1,300
Cadbury	2,400	Scot Power	3,000
Caradon	1,500	Sears	5,300
Carlton Cms	1,400	Svrn Trent	197
Cm Union	1,400	Shell Trans	1,200
Courtaulds	868	Siebe	665
De La Rue	159	SmKl Bch	8,900
Eastern Elec	842	Smith Nph	3,900
Enterpr Oil	151	Sthern Elec	1,800
Forte	2,100	Std Chartd	1,700
GKN	1,900	Sun Allnce	497
GRE	1,200	TI Gp	289
GUS	424	TSB	5,700
Gen Acc	975	Tesco	3,100
Gen Elec	2,100	Thames W	315
Glaxo	2,900	Thrn EMI	384
Granada	2,900	Tomkins	12,000
Grand Met	2,100	Unilever	1,100
Guinness	764	Utd Bisc	1,400
HSBC	1,900	Vodafone	9,700
Hanson	8,100	Warburg	1,500
ICI	630	Wellcome	2,200
Inchcape	721	Whitbread	3,300
Kingfisher	1,000	Wlms Hld	3,300
Ladbroke	3,900	Wolseley	468
Land Secs	964	Zeneca	834

WALL STREET

	Feb 8 midday	Feb 7 close
AMP Inc	70½	70½
AMR Corp	56½	56½
AT & T	51¼	51¼
Abbott Labs	35½	35½
Advanced Micro	31	30½
Aetna Life	53½	52½
Ahmanson (HF)	18½	18½
Air Prod & Chem	46½	46½
Albertson's	31	30½
Alcan Aluminm	24½	25½
Alco Standard	66½	66½
Allied Signal	38½	37½
Alum Co of Am	78½	80
Amax Gold Inc	4½	4½
Amerada Hess	48	47½
Amer Brands	38½	38
Amer El Power	35	35
Amer Express	32½	32½
Amer Genl Corp	31¼	30½
Amer Home Pr	71	70½
Amer Intl	105½	105½
Amer Stores	24½	24½
Ameritech	43½	43½
Amoco	58½	57½
Anheuser-Busch	54½	53½
Apple Computer	42½	40 11/16
Archer Daniels	20½	19½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrng Wrld	47½	46½
Asarco	26½	26½
Ashland Oil	32½	32½
Atl Richfield	107½	106½
Auto Data Pro	61¼	61
Avery Dennison	37½	37½
Avon Products	58½	58½
Baker Hughes	18	18
Baltim Gas & El	24½	24½
Banc One	29½	29½
BankAmerica	47	46½
Bank of NY	32	32
Bankers Tr NY	64	63½
Barnett Banks	44	43½
Bausch & Lomb	33½	33½
Baxter Intl	29	29½
Becton Dicknsn	51¼	51¼
Bell Atlantic	54½	54½
BellSouth	60½	59½
Black & Decker	23½	23½
Block (H&R)	35½	36½
Boeing	48	47½
Boise Cascade	27½	27½
Borden Inc	13½	13
Bristol Myrs Sq	61¼	62
Browning Ferris	30½	31½
Brunswick	19½	19½
Burlington Nthn	51¼	50½
CBS	63½	62½
CNA Financial	70½	70½
CPC Intl	55½	55½
CSX	70½	71¼
Campbell Soup	45	44½
Can Pacific	14½	14½
Cptl Cities ABC	88½	88½
Carolina Pwr	28½	28½
Caterpillar	53½	53½
Central & SW	24½	24½
Champion Intl	41¼	41¼
Chase Manhat	34½	34½
Chemical Bk	40	39½
Chevron Corp	46½	46½
Chrysler	44½	45½
Chubb Corp	80½	79½
Cigna Corp	69½	69½
Citicorp	43½	43½
Clorox	58½	57½
Coastal Corp	28½	28½
Coca Cola	54	53½
Colgate-Palmolive	64½	64½
Columbia Gas	25½	25½
Compaq Comp	35½	35½
Comp Ass Intl	52½	52½
Conagra	31¼	31¼
Conrail	53½	53
Cons Edison	28½	28½
Cons Nat Gas	36½	36½
Cooper Inds	39½	39½
Corning Inc	32	32½
Crown Cork	40½	42
Dana Corp	22½	22½
Dayton Hudson	73½	73½
Deere	73½	74½
Delta Air Lines	52½	52½
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	29½	28½
Digital Equip	36	36½
Dillard Dept St	27½	27½
Disney (Walt)	52½	52½
Dominion Res	39	38½
Donelley (RR)	31¼	31¼
Dover Corp	59½	58½
Dow Chemical	65	65½
Dow Jones	34½	34½
Dresser	20½	20½
Duke Power	39½	39½
Dun & Bradstreet	51¼	51
Du Pont	55½	55
Eastman Kodak	50½	49½
Eaton Corp	46½	46½
Emerson Elec	64½	64½
Engelhard Corp	22	26½
Enron Corp	31¼	31¼
Entergy	23½	24
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	62½	62½
FMC Corp	58½	57½
FPL Group	36½	36½
Federal Express	61	61
Fed Nat Mtge	77½	76½
First Chicago	49½	48½
First Interstate	78½	78½
First Union Rlty	7½	8½
Fleet Finl Grp	33½	33½
Fluor Corp	47½	47
Ford Motor	25½	25½
GTE Corp	33½	33½
Gannett	51¼	51¼
Gap Inc Del	33½	33½
Gen Dynamics	44½	44½
Gen Electric	52½	51¼
Gen Mills	59½	59½
Gen Motors	39½	39½
Gen Reinsurance	130½	130
Gen Signal	35½	35½
Genuine Parts	38	37½
Georgia Pac	75½	75
Gillette	78½	78½
Glaxo ADR	20½	20½
Goodrich (BF)	44¼	44½
Goodyear Tire	36½	36½
Grace (W&R)	42½	42½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	19½	19½
Great Wstn Fin	18½	18½
Halliburton	35½	34½
Harcourt General	34½	34½
Heinz (HJ)	40½	40½
Hercules	43½	43½
Hershey Foods	50½	49½
Hewlett Packard	102½	102½
Hilton Hotels	67½	67½
Home Depot	49½	49½
Homestake Mng	15½	15½
Honeywell	35½	35½
Household Intl	41¼	40½
Houston Inds	40½	40½
Humana	24½	24½
ITT Corp	95	95½
Illinois Tool	43½	43½
Illinova	23½	23½
INCO	27½	26½
Ingersoll Rand	31¼	31¼
Inland Steel	29½	29½
Intel Corp	74 7/16	73
IBM	74½	74½
Intl Flav & Fr	49½	48½
Intl Paper	74½	74½
James River Va	23½	23½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57½	57½
Kellogg	55½	55½
Kerr-McGee	48½	48½
Kimberly-Clark	49½	49½
Kmart	14½	14½
Knight-Ridder	51½	51½
Lilly (Eli)	66½	66½
Limited Inc	17	16½
LIN Brdcstng	138½	139½
Lincoln Nat	38½	38½
Litton	36½	36½
Liz Claiborne	16½	16½
Lockheed	74	73½
Louisiana Pac	28½	28½
MCI Comm	20	19½
Marriott Int	30½	30½
Marsh & McLen	82½	81¼
Masco Corp	25	24½
May Dept St	36½	36½
Maytag Corp	15½	15½
McDonalds	33½	33¼
McDonnell D	53	53
McGraw Hill	68½	67½
Mead Corp	52½	52½
Medtronic	58½	59
Mellon Bk	36½	36½
Melville Corp	32½	32½
Merck Inc	40½	40½
Merrill Lynch	39½	39½
Minnesota Mine	52½	52½
Mobil Corp	87	87
Monsanto	74½	74½
Morgan (JP)	60½	63½
Motorola Inc	60½	61¼
Natl Medical	15½	15½
Natl Semi	17½	17½
Natl Service Ind	26½	26½
Navistar Int	16½	16½
NBD Bancorp	31¼	31¼
NY Times A	21¼	21¼
Newmont Mng	33½	35½
Niag Mohawk	14½	14½
Nike B	69½	69½
NL Industries	11¼	11¼
Noram Energy	5½	5½
Nordstrom	42 7/16	42½
Norfolk Sthrn	62½	62½
Nthn State Pwr	46½	46½
Norwest Corp	24½	24½
Nynex Corp	39½	39
Occidental Pet	18½	19
Ohio Edison	21¼	21¼
Oracle Systems	43½	44½
Oryx Energy Co	11½	10½
Owens Corning	34¼	32½
PPG Industries	37½	37½
PNC Bank	23½	23½
Paccar Inc	42 7/16	42½
Pacificorp	19½	19½
Pac Enterprises	22½	22½
Pac Gas & Elect	25½	25½
Pac Telesis	31¼	30½
Pall Corp	19	19½
Panhandle East	22½	22½
Parker Hannifin	47½	47
Peco Energy	27½	27
Penney (JC)	43½	43
Pennzoil	45½	45½
Pepsico	37½	38
Pfizer	81½	81¼
Phelps Dodge	54½	54½
Philip Morris	61½	61½
Phillips Pet	32½	32
Pitney Bowes	33½	33½
Polaroid	30	30
PriceCostco	13½	13½
Procter & Gmbl	66½	66½
Providian	36½	36½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29
Quaker Oats	34½	34½
Ralston Purina	46½	46½
Raychem Corp	37½	37½
Raytheon	69	68½
Reebok Intl	35½	35
Reynolds Metals	50½	51
Roadway Srvcs	50	50½
Rockwell Intl	38½	39
Rohm & Haas	55½	56
Royal Dutch	112½	111½
Rubbermaid	31¼	31¼
Safeco Corp	54½	53½
St Paul's Cos	47½	47½
Salomon Inc	38½	39½
Santa Fe Pac	19½	9½
Sara Lee Corp	26½	26½
Seecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	78½	78½
Schlumberger	54½	54½
Scott Paper	78½	77½
Seagram	30½	30½
Sears Roebuck	47½	45½
Shell Trans	67½	67
Sherwin Wlms	34½	34½
Skyline Corp	17½	17½
Snap-On-Tools	33½	33½
Southern Co	21¼	21¼
Sthwestern Bell	43½	43
Sprint Corp	30½	30
Stanley Works	40½	39½
Sun Company	29½	29½
Sun Microsys	31 7/16	31¼
Suntrust	53½	53½
Supervalu	24	23½
Sysco Corp	28½	28½
TRW Inc	65½	65½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	17½	17½
Tandy Corp	46½	46½
Teledyne	23	22½
Temple Inland	46½	47
Tenneco	44½	44½
Texaco	61½	61¼
Texas Inst	74½	73½
Texas Utilities	34½	34½
Textron	52½	52½
Time Warner	38½	38½
Times-Mirror A	19	19
Timken	33½	33½
Torchmark	41½	41¼
Toys R Us	30½	30½
Transamerica	53½	52½
Travelers	39	39½
Tribune	54½	54
Tyco Labs	49½	49½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	93½	93½
USX Marathon	16	16
Unicom	25½	26
Unilever NV	116½	116½
Union Camp	50½	50½
Union Carbide	28½	28½
Union Pacific	49½	50½
Unisys Corp	9½	9½
USAir Group	5½	5½
USF&G Corp	14½	14½
US Life	38½	38½
US West	39½	39½
United Tech	65½	65
Unocal Corp	26½	26½
Upjohn	34½	34½
VF Corp	49½	50½
WMX Tech	26½	27½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	24
Warner-Lambert	79½	78½
Wells Fargo	155½	154½
Westinghouse El	14½	14½
Weyerhaeuser	39½	39½
Whirlpool	53½	52½
Whitman	16½	16½
Winn Dixie	54½	54½
Woolworth	16	16½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	46½	46½
Xerox	107½	107
Yellow Corp	21 7/16	21½

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Too blue for women

WHEN market traders talk of "red" and "blue", they invariably speak of share prices. But there is another hue to "blue", and it concerns language. It is the colour that too many institutions are offering as their excuse for not employing more women in capital markets. Gary Ashworth, chief executive of Abacus Recruitment, the specialist consultancy, says there is a growing demand for qualified front office professionals. However, since markets remain male dominated, Ashworth is meeting discrimination when he tries to place women. "Capital markets are quite a rough market, where the language can get a little blue, and there is a perception that women will not be able to tolerate this", he concedes. One woman who has made it to the top says brokers and traders mix in a "all-chaps-together" fashion, that clients like talking to women salespersons, and that as a woman, corporate finance departments and bond markets "are the nicest areas" in which to work. Ashworth says the all-male attitude is ridiculous. "Women can make a fantastic contribution to this market. We have a number of highly qualified women on our books who could do the job standing on their heads", he says. But then, as a trader might retort, "preferably not".

Just the job

IF Sir Iain Vallance, of BT, wants to do penance for his remark about junior doctors, then there is a job application which he might consider. The London Ambulance Service is advertising for a chairman. The post calls for a person "with a high degree of financial awareness, with experience of living or working in the London area". The chairman would be expected to work a dedicated two/three-days a week, at least, and might expect a salary of about £19,000 — annually.



"Whatever I do, it still says 25,000"

Soured Sugar

ALAN ("I never smile for the cameras") Sugar has a reputation for not liking the City, and of not being too keen to hand information to it. But yesterday the man surpassed himself. He was asked at the interim press conference if he had spoken with Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, since Amstrad had taken to selling computers direct to the public and cutting out the likes of Dixons. "He wished me a happy birthday." And when was that? "On my birthday," said Sugar, stone-faced. Curiously, he was not even telling the truth. Amstrad launched its Direct business in November, and Sugar, born on March 24, has not had a birthday since.

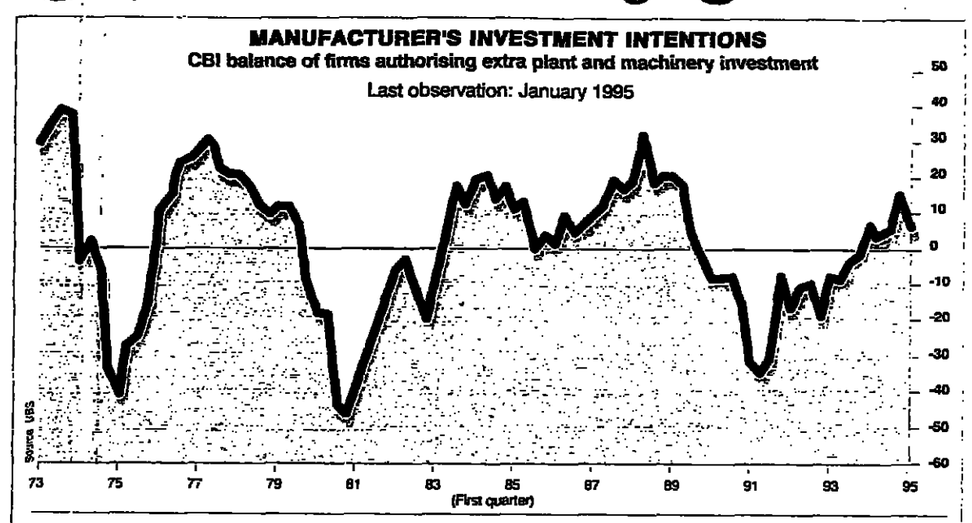
FRED FINN, the world's most travelled executive, was last night honoured at a reception at the Royal Over-Seas League. The flying Finn is about to notch up his 11 millionth mile when he jets off to Africa with Kenya Airways.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW  JANET BUSH

Investment is the essential missing piece in the jigsaw

The proximity of an election has shackled Clarke and George to a short time-scale



These are frustrating times for Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George. Every time they put up interest rates, emphasising their determination to avoid another British boom and bust, they are swamped in bitter criticism from industry. And yet it is industry, so damaged by the vicious cycles of the past, which pleads above everything else for steady, predictable macro-economic policy.

The trouble is that Chancellor and Governor are giving every impression of playing a long game, but are shackled to a short time-scale because of the proximity of the next election. Industry just does not believe the self-imposed austerity will last.

Mr Clarke is virtually tied in by his party to delivering pre-election tax cuts and, sadly reminiscent of Lawson election-winning coups of the past, they will come at completely the wrong stage in the economic cycle.

Britain's history of economic management has been muddied by political expediency for so very long that no amount of sensible rhetoric from Mr Clarke and Mr George will erase industry's fears. These deeply held suspicions are one of the crucial, if unquantifiable, reasons why business is not investing more.

Investment is the one big piece of the economic jigsaw yet to be slotted into place. Like the Government, uncomfortable with healthy growth and rapidly falling unemployment because of the inflation spectres of the past, companies cannot break out of their defensive view of economic conditions.

The CBI's January industrial trends survey, the longest run and most reliable source for predicting investment, showed that companies' investment intentions had weakened since October despite a greater number worrying about capacity constraints and intending to raise prices.

Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest Markets commented: "It is undoubtedly disappointing that companies, faced with emerging capacity constraints, appear to prefer to raise prices to choke off demand to investing in new capacity to supply that demand." Even after the worrying signal from the CBI, he and others remain optimistic that investment will take off this year. There are many bull points:

☐ British companies have built up a huge financial surplus since the recession. Profits are healthy. They have the money to spend. Availability of borrowing is no problem at all. David Mackie of JP Morgan noted that spreads in the syndicated loan market are currently wafer thin, suggesting that banks are falling over themselves to lend.

☐ Despite serious misgivings about the future of demand which showed up in the CBI survey, the positive experience of last year, at least for exporters, and the prospect of further strengthening in export markets ought to outweigh the sluggishness of the domestic market.

☐ The CBI survey pointed to emerging capacity constraints, suggesting that investment must be about to increase. Bill Martin of UBS believes that capacity usage is now equal to the level of normal British booms, if not the Lawson one.

☐ There is an argument that the lagged investment response to recovery is entirely typical. It took until 1985 and 1986 before investment gathered pace after the early 1980s recession, so companies are not that late this time.

Against these plus points are some considerable minus ones. Apart from lack of trust in Britain's economic managers, there is the disincentive of high long-term interest rates after the bond market crash of 1994.

The British phenomenon of companies demanding high real rates of return also persists. A survey by the CBI last year showed that a third of British manufacturers using formal rates of return to assess capital investment are prepared to accept an annual return of 11 per cent or less because of low inflation. But two firms in five still want returns of more than 20 per cent and are still using short two to three-year payback periods.

These points, negative and positive, all constitute traditional analysis of Britain's investment question. But they still look at investment in a narrow way. Most dramatically, official figures concentrate on manufacturing despite the fact that services account for more than two thirds of the economy. The official figures also concentrate largely on physical plant such as buildings and machinery. Increasingly however, companies are competing in a world in which intangibles such as skills, technology, marketing, the structure of supply chains, customer service, the value of relative brands, market positioning, all provide the most potential for added value and productivity gains.

Official investment figures include none of these. John Kay of London Economics notes that in the pharmaceutical industry, for example, investment in research and development is counted as a current expense. But this is the key component to the profit streams of the future. A new software package on the PC of a City economist, finance officer or graphic designer may raise productivity twofold.

Nor do investment figures take so-called human capital into account. Yet it is now common wisdom that the quality of employees and their pooled skills are more and more important.

So is any of this being taken on board by British companies? Are they investing in a different, more innovative way which is not picked up in the statistics?

One area in which the official numbers may be understating both the actual value of investment going on, and its impact on productivity, is information technology. Dr Walter Eltis, chief economic adviser to Michael Heseltine, noted in a recent article, in the context of the US, that the price index for computers and information technology (IT) related equipment has fallen 80 per cent since 1980 while the prices of other capital goods has risen 60 per cent. Dr Eltis argues that there has been a worldwide boost in profits from a pervasive use of relatively cheap IT. He also notes that these shorter-lasting assets are more immune than traditional capital stock to the sharp rise in real interest rates in the 1980s and 1990s.

A more general shift towards "intangible investments" shows up in a survey of more than 600 firms by Paul Geroski and Paul Gregg for the National Institute Economic Review in 1993. The survey explored how companies had coped in recession and the investment question turned up some interesting phenomena.

Many companies had cancelled investment plans in plant and machinery and buildings, a wholly traditional British response to recession. But many had brought forward investment in research and development, new product or process innovations and training. For example, 123 firms brought forward R&D investment and 217 brought forward product innovations.

These results contain the seeds of something positive, but much else about British corporate behaviour is worrying. Another form of investment not accounted for by official statistics is restructuring to enhance productivity. Gary Hamel and C.K. Prahalad describe this succinctly in their book *Competing for the Future*: "Masquerading under names such as refocusing, delayering, decluttering, right-sizing (one is tempted to ask why the 'right' size is always smaller), restructuring always has the same result: fewer employees."

The Inland Revenue's intention to lose 12,000 jobs over the next seven years is a restructuring investment. The "delayering" of management in British Telecom has been an extremely expensive investment in future efficiency.

Short-termism has always been associated with British companies cancelling long-term investment because of boom and bust. But perhaps the ultimate short-termism is the one-way management cult of downsizing, a wonderfully obvious way of boosting productivity swiftly.

Here lies the problem. Such defensive investment, based entirely on the totem of the bottom line, has a practical limit. Even modern technology needs a minimum number of human beings to run it and make the right decisions. Cost cutting alone threatens to create anaemic companies without the resources to develop. In an increasingly competitive world economy, positive investment in new products, flexible systems and human talent is what will win new markets.

Fiat accelerates out of trouble as Italy spins

Political turmoil is not damaging industry, **Colin Narbrough** reports

Stable government still eludes Italy after the eight-month rule of Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon turned prime minister. But to judge by the performance of Fiat, Italy's leading industrial company, instability does not necessarily impair corporate recovery.

In the run up to the elections that brought Signor Berlusconi and his colourful coalition to power last year, industry, fearing the effects of *tangentopoli* (bribesville), exposing corruption at the highest government and corporate levels, campaigned hard to demonstrate that Italy was still working, and working well. The steady stream of senior executives paraded before the corruption-hunting magistrates could in many economies be expected to damage the corporate sector. Not so, it seems, in Italy.

Lamberto Dini, the former director-general of the Italian central bank, who has taken over the premiership, promises hardly more than a fleeting moment of political peace.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, Italian industry has not been idle. The lira's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism, like the exit of the pound, was a huge help to exporters. Since then the lira has fallen to record lows.

> Devaluation has been a great help to exporters

So far the inflation effect of the weak currency has been modest. Goods prices have started to pick up, especially at the producer level, which will ultimately force the central bank to tighten the monetary reins again. However, for the first half of this year, the outlook is for the lira to hold steady after depreciation of 5 per cent in the second half of last year.

Italian export volumes rose substantially faster than those in Britain, its fellow devaluer, and only a third of the devaluation was reflected in lower Italian export prices. The state of the lira will create problems for Italy if its politicians want to pursue the goal of a single currency. But the weak currency has been very good for exporters.

In his annual letter to shareholders, Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat, highlighted the importance of the "favourable trend in exchange rates" in overcoming Italian industry's long period of steadily declining competitiveness. "It is against this background, where signs of improvement prevailed over the continuing causes of uncertainty, that the performance of Fiat in 1994 must be evaluated," he said.

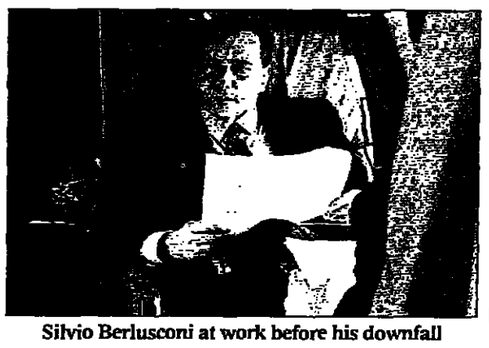
Signor Agnelli acknowledged that the improved international economic climate had helped Fiat to a Ll,750 billion pre-tax profit last year. In 1993, his family-controlled empire suffered a loss of Ll,384 billion, the worst in the group's history of nearly 100 years.

Although the Italian economy grew by 2.4 per cent last year, Fiat's domestic market has not contributed so much to the company's spectacular turn round. The Italian car market, which slumped 20.4 per cent in 1993, slipped a further 2.7 per cent last year. However, the company's automotive sales to Britain surged 33 per cent. Despite general economic recovery, Fiat noted that growth rates in its principal markets last year remained "rather modest".

Although cars account for half of Fiat's L65,500 billion turnover, it is a broadly based industrial group engaged in aviation, engineering and a host of other sectors. That makes it a useful bellwether of Italy's industrial vitality.

Signor Agnelli, whose group employs a quarter of a million people, has appealed for greater labour market flexibility and continued rigorous wage restraint to keep Italy competitive. Signor Dini would doubtless support his call, but he has his own ambitious programme for reform of the state pension scheme, a supplementary budget to keep the public deficit on target, electoral reform and measures to ensure equal media access for political parties. No mean ambition for a caretaker prime minister.

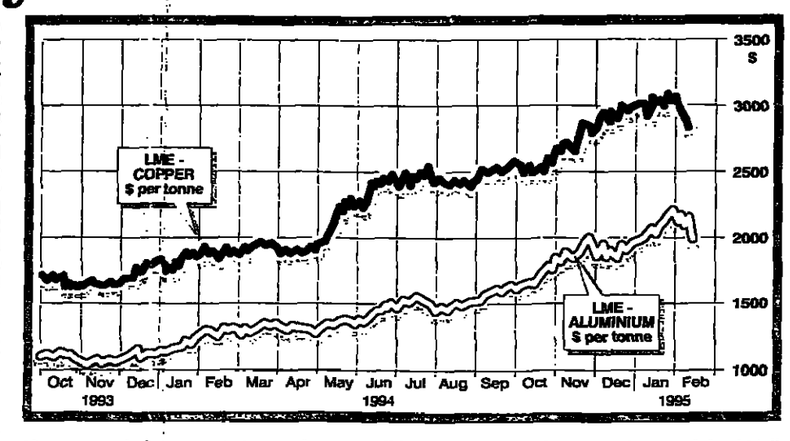
Italian industrialists too want public sector finances brought under control and greater political stability. But they have been busy making sure that their corporate futures will ultimately lie in their own hands.



Silvio Berlusconi at work before his downfall

American hedge funds are the villains of a crashing market, says **Carl Mortished**

Heavy metal lands on London traders' heads



Dealers on the London Metal Exchange spent another day trying to dodge large lumps of metal crashing through the ceiling as investors bailed out of commodities. The last fortnight of falling base metal prices came as a shock to the LME trading community basking in a year-long bull market that has doubled and in some cases almost tripled the value of commodities once viewed as terminally dull investments.

Traders have been caught on the hop. The speed at which base metals rose last year surprised traders as well as treasuries and central banks. Metal watchers were expecting a correction but the suddenness and speed of the meltdown has caught dealers unawares.

After falls of 20 per cent in prices of nickel, lead and tin over the previous fortnight, investors began dumping aluminium on Wednesday night and the sell-off continued yesterday. The base metals price index of the brokers Ord Minnett has already lost 13 per cent from its peak in January and Nick Moore, a metals analyst, is predicting an overall slump of 20-30 per cent.

The villains of the year-long rally and sudden decline are hedge funds, which initially came to the rescue of the commodities market towards the end of 1993, buying futures contracts in metals as well as soft commodities like cocoa. American investment banks such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan have created investment vehicles to track the commodities market and have courted pension funds, seeking to draw them into the commodity arena.

"They started investing about a year ago. At the time equities and bonds were looking expensive," explained Neil Buxton, research consultant for Lehmann Bros, the investment bank and LME trader. "At the same time base metal prices were at all-time lows. The funds saw that the share prices of mining stocks such as Alcan and RTZ had risen significantly but the prices of the underlying commodities had underperformed. Seeing the equity market outperforming and the underlying market underperforming, they switched assets from one to the other."

Most of the buying has been by American funds which last year noted a strong pick-up in US economic growth and logically predicted greater demand for metals from the automobile, construction and packaging sectors. Then weak American vehicle sales figures in January and recent interest rate rises set the scene for a slowdown in US growth. The hedge funds once again switched horses, leaping from commodities into bonds.

The supply side of the equation is more worrying. In spite of the steady increase in demand, metal stocks remain ample. Only copper stocks have been run down, and in any case, they will increase with a doubling of production over the next two years at the Escondida mine in Chile.

Aluminium could also be in for trouble, Mr Moore points out. Serious overproduction, exacerbated by Russian dumping, finally persuaded producer countries to rein back. They agreed last summer to reduce production by about 900,000 tonnes. As a consequence, LME aluminium stocks have fallen by 1 million tonnes to 1.6 million tonnes since last June. "The next stage will be bringing that capacity back on stream," Mr Moore predicted.

The big mining companies are philosophical about the investor activity in the futures market, preferring to rely on what they see as long-term growth in consumption. World demand for base metals is expected to grow at 2.5 to 3 per cent, more or less in line with the global economy, with sluggish growth in the West offset by strong consumption in the growing Asian manufacturing economies.

But the mining and metals combines cannot easily rein back investments started in the recent bull market and they will be hoping for some equilibrium after a year on the roller-coaster.

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Europe's chemical industry cheered by Rhône-Poulenc

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RHÔNE-POULENC has confirmed the end of the cyclical slump in the European chemical industry by announcing doubled profits, together with a 7.1 per cent improvement in sales during 1994, to Fr86.3 billion.

Starting the European chemicals reporting season, the French chemicals and pharmaceuticals group reported a strong upturn in demand for bulk and speciality chemicals. But the improvement was undermined by a continued mediocre performance from its health and pharmaceuticals side, which accounts for around 70 per cent of group sales.

Overall, net income for 1994 was up 99.1 per cent at Fr1.92 billion. Jean-Marc Bruel, deputy chairman, said 70 per cent of the financial improvement was a result of the economic recovery worldwide. The rest he ascribed to efficiency gains and restructuring.

Jean-René Fourtou, chairman, acknowledged that the performance of the company, which was privatised in November 1993, remained unsatisfactory. But he believed recovery would continue in Rhône-Poulenc's main markets: France, North America and Pacific Asia. He said the company remained confident in Rhône-Poulenc Rorer (RPR), the separately quoted American pharmaceutical subsidiary. Despite the accelerating consolidation of the drugs industry worldwide — illustrated by Glaxo's £9.5 billion bid for Wellcome — M Fourtou said there was no rush to find a partner for RPR.

However, with its return on sales still inadequate despite a rolling programme of disposals, Rhône-Poulenc is hamstrung by the high debts built up during its acquisition spree, funded by borrowing, while still under state control in the late 1980s.

With net borrowings of Fr4.8 billion, equal to 48 per cent of shareholders funds, Rhône-Poulenc faces a tough penalty from the steep rise in long-term interest rates. Expected disposal receipts of Fr4.06 billion during the first quarter of the current year should help borrowings. But even so, the decision last year to increase the company's stake in Société Generale, the French Bank, to 2.6 per cent and to acquire a 1 per cent holding in Renault, the carmaker, may appear a strange use of £70 million.

M Fourtou says the investment in Renault, taken during that company's privatisation last year, underpins joint research into clean diesel engines. However, sceptics question whether Rhône-Poulenc is not continuing to act as an instrument of French state industrial policy.

Another legacy of state control is an excessive dividend payout. M Fourtou reiterated his aim of reducing the ratio, which reached 65 per cent at peak, to 35 to 40 per cent. A divided of Fr4.2 is proposed.

The strongest divisional performance last year was in fibres and polymers, but demand for agricultural chemicals remains weak.

Acceleration at Alexanders

BY JON ASHWORTH

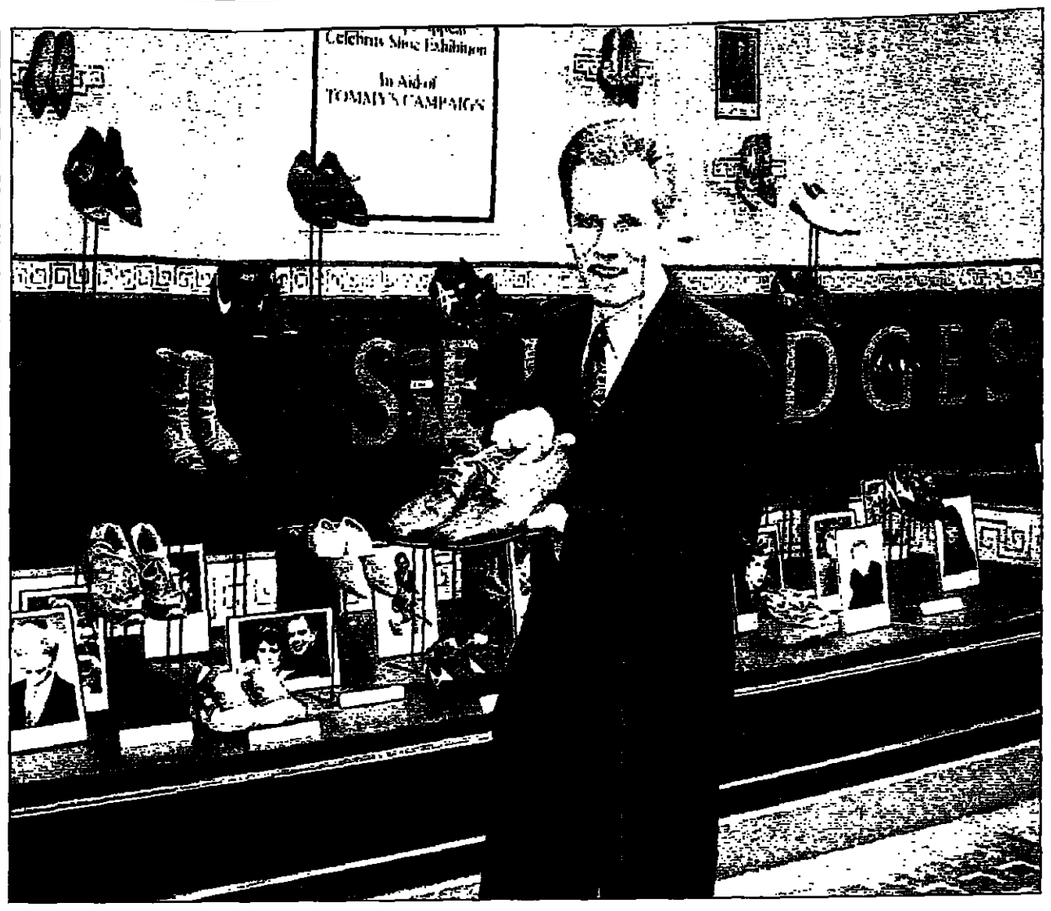
ALEXANDERS Holdings, Scotland's biggest Ford motor dealer, lifted pre-tax profits to £935,000 (£512,000) in the year to September 30. The company, that holds three Ford dealerships north of the border, saw sales climb to £110.8 million (£87.2 million) in a highly competitive market. Alexanders also has a sizeable contract hire fleet, operating 5,500 vehicles across the UK.

Roger Humm, vice-chairman and chief executive, said turnover had increased significantly on the back of a new business plan, which recognised the need to increase retail and fleet customers. The next phase is aimed at improving operating margins. Consultants have been engaged to help to improve standards of customer service.

The contract hire and leasing market continues to offer good opportunities for growth. General market share is expected to grow after the acquisition, last October, of Metheringham Car Sales of Lincoln, which holds franchises for Nissan, Mazda and Jeep. Metheringham is now trading as Alexanders of Lincoln. The company spent £1.75 million on the acquisition, which fitted in with plans to expand further into England and extend its franchise range.

Mr Humm said: "Our business strategy and plan provides for steady improvements in return of capital employed and earnings per share. It seeks to create the base against which a strong dividend policy can be developed."

Earnings per share were 2.29p, compared with 1.25p last time. A final dividend of 0.7p per share (0.5p) makes a total of 1p (0.5p) per share for the year.



Stepping out: Stephen Smith, deputy managing director of British Shoe Corporation, outside Selfridge's in London at the launch of a celebrity footwear exhibition. Mr Smith, who is holding the shoes worn by Nelson Mandela during his imprisonment, is supporting a nationwide fund-raising campaign.

British Shoe is giving 10p for every pair of shoes sold in February at outlets including Saxone, Hush Puppies and Freeman Hardy Willis as part of the First Steps Appeal, which aims to raise £500,000 for Tommy's Campaign, a charity funding research into prematurity, miscarriage and stillbirth. Last week Mr Smith handed over a cheque for £200,000 in anticipation of selling two million pairs of shoes this month.

The exhibition features the footwear of more than 50 celebrities ranging from the Dalai Lama to Eric Cantona. It includes the Nikes worn by Andre Agassi when he won the US Open last September, Elizabeth Hurley's black suede platforms worn at the premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and Pavarotti's boots from the 1984 production of *Aida*.

The exhibition opens in Bristol on February 10, before moving to Glasgow and Belfast.

National Express spreads its wings

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the coach operator, is buying Bournemouth International Airport for £7.23 million in an effort to establish itself as Britain's second largest airport operator behind BAA.

The airport is being sold by Bournemouth Borough Council and Dorset County Council, which want to attract private finance into the site to speed its development. National Express is also taking a lease on 1,000 acres of surrounding land, which also contains an industrial estate.

Bournemouth Airport runs regular scheduled services to Brussels, Paris and Dublin, as well as charter flights to Spain and the Mediterranean.

The runway is 1.8 kilometres and large enough to allow Boeing 737 aircraft to land. There is planning permission to extend it to 2.2 kilometres, which would give access to Boeing 757s and 767s and allow the airport to offer flights to the east coast of America.

The airport currently employs 150 people and generated a £5 million turnover last year. The cost of providing security and customs services is high.

Last summer the two councils appointed KPMG, the accountancy firm, to advise on how to develop the site and KPMG recommended it should be sold to the private sector. National Express already owns East Midlands Airport, which it bought in 1993, and is keen to develop its airport business to operate alongside its traditional coach services. In the first half of last year, East Midlands generated a profit of £1.5 million on an £8.4 million turnover.

Tempus, page 30

Detonator plant to shut at ICI

ICI is shutting a detonator factory in Ardeer, Strathclyde, with the loss of 200 jobs by October. Some work will be relocated to the ICI explosivesRoburite, near Wigan, Greater Manchester. The company blamed the demise of the coal mining industry for a sharp fall in demand for explosives and detonators. Some 400 jobs at Ardeer will remain for employees making products for the vehicle and aerospace industries.

Crystal glow

Dartington Crystal, the handmade crystal producer taken private in a management buyout last year, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.07 million (£338,000) in the year to end-December. Sales climbed 15 per cent to £10.5 million (£9.1 million).

NWF jumps

NWF, the agricultural distribution company that recently broke off merger discussions with Carrs Milling Industries, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.1 million (£800,000) in the six months to end-November. Turnover climbed to £27 million (£22 million).

Sykes sell-off

Andrew Sykes Group, the industrial services company, has conditionally agreed to sell Calorex Heat Pumps maker of swimming pool pumps, to a company formed by its managers for £1.725 million.

Losses cut

Elbief, the Birmingham-based maker of photograph and handbag frames, clocks and mirrors, trimmed pre-tax losses from £138,000 to £29,000 in the six months to end-October. Turnover advanced to £2.3 million (£1.95 million). The loss per share was 0.2p (1.1p loss). There is no dividend (nil)

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ACCOUNTANCY

And the prize for best report . . .

The objective is to present a complex document in an understandable form, says **Anthony Carey**

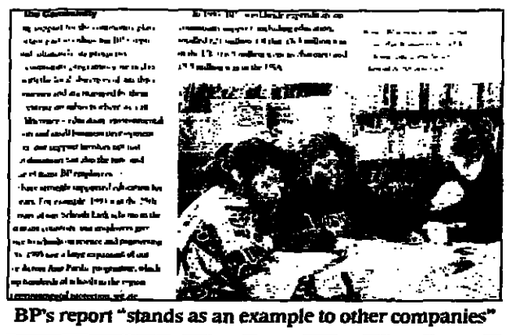
The giant BP, with 84,500 employees, and Graseby, with just 1,500 staff, are both striving to be at the forefront of the technologies underlying their core businesses. By winning the large and small company sections, respectively, of the 1995 Stock Exchange and Chartered Accountants Annual Awards for Published Accounts, their position at the leading edge of current reporting practice is also recognised.

A couple of weeks ago, Sir Adrian Cadbury was shipwrecked on Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs*. If he had just returned today to civilisation after being away for three to four years, he would be taken aback by the extent of changes to annual reports during his absence. New financial reporting standards have recast the face of the profit and loss account and heralded new cash-flow statements and statements of total recognised gains and losses.

Outside the accounts section, the publication of the Operating and Financial Review by the Accounting Standards Board has led to more informative business reviews in many reports. The award-winning companies, and the many others that prepare praiseworthy reports, have managed to take the above changes in their stride and to present a complex document in an understandable form, helping to explain the company's objectives, progress, prospects and management's stewardship over the company's resources.

Graseby opens its annual report by stating that it "pursues excellence in each of its four business areas: medical, product monitoring, environmental and technology. Committed to customer service and continuous improvement through total quality, the group operates in markets where expert knowledge, quality and partnership attract high margins and above average returns on net operating assets". Its strategic objectives are to develop and expand activities on a global basis; to achieve enhanced financial performance based on quality earnings and to continue to strengthen the balance sheet.

Although many companies include a summary of activities at the beginning of their annual report, far fewer follow



BP's report "stands as an example to other companies"



Graseby's report "clearly articulates their mission"

Graseby's lead and go beyond telling their readers what they do and clearly articulate their mission. Both BP and Graseby score well on corporate governance disclosures. Their reports contain good biographical information on their directors and each has an informative corporate governance statement. BP, for example, points out that it is unusual among UK-listed companies in having a majority of non-executive directors on its board. It also indicates that its board meets monthly and sets out the matters reserved to the full board and those dealt with by the various board committees. In its notes to the accounts, the company went beyond current practice at the time its report was published and stated the exercise price at which new share options were granted to a director during the year and the average exercise price of all directors' options outstanding at the end of the year.

BP has an accounting policies note and a note in the accounts on financial instruments discussing, mainly in qualitative terms, how the company deals in them and accounts for them. This area, perhaps more than any other, will increasingly require the attention of the corporate sector generally and the standard-setters, in particular.

The substantial amount of five-yearly information made available by BP deserves mention. It extends beyond providing the group income and balance sheet statements to an analysis of cash flows and of capital expenditure and acquisitions, and stands as an example to other companies.

To remain at the leading edge, the preparers of annual reports must always strive to explain more fully than the previous year the operations and performance of the company in the context of its business environment.

The author is a member of the technical department of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Treading on toes in unification dance

THE accountancy bodies have started their strange dance of unification yet again. Only this time it will require just two of them to tango for the process to get properly underway. Those of us not directly involved could be excused for looking at the whole process somewhat wearily. That would be wrong.

The trouble is that the longer the accountancy bodies waste their efforts in trying to unify the profession's structure, the less time they are able to devote to the proper issue of ensuring that the country has an effective accountancy profession. And, with every permutation of matching this accounting body with that one, the greater the temptation for them all to go for short-term solutions.

The latest is the idea of putting the country's largest body, the English ICA, together with the CIMA, the management accounting body. The arithmetic is simple. The English ICA puts its 105,000 members, split 50:50 between those in practice and those in business, with the CIMA's membership of 35,000 in business and industry. This, like all previous attempts at mergers, makes sense on paper. And, like most piecemeal efforts at rationalising the nation's accounting bodies, it could, if successful, trigger other mergers in its wake.

The problem is whether it will be successful. Almost anyone can agree on basic principles. The detail is what causes problems. There is already a good head of steam behind the idea at council levels. But events during the fateful meeting of heads of the profession, where it was initially announced, are not as propitious. "Correct me if I'm wrong," Keith Woodley, English ICA deputy president, is reputed to have said to Tom Glancy, CIMA president, as he described part of the basis for a merger. And Glancy promptly did.

Part of the difficulty of any possible merger is that the accounting bodies are having to compete hard with each other on every front. Their interests were once much more closely intertwined. And they still didn't manage to get together then. Now even two bodies such as the English ICA and CIMA are very different in attitude and objectives.

The arrival of the CIMA as part of the new body would mean a switch from the English ICA's current 50:50 balance of practice and business to a 50:80 ratio. At present, the English ICA keeps the balance relatively happy. Its business membership has traditionally felt undervalued and underrepresented. But the creation of a faculty organisation, the board for chartered accountants in business, BCAB, has eased that.

If the balance were to tilt towards the business members, things would undoubtedly change. At present, the English ICA's audit view prevails when it comes to allowing audit firms to sell consultancy and business services to clients. The CIMA takes the opposite view and thinks that auditors should be barred from selling associated services. That is the sort of fundamental difference of principle that exists.

Equally, the negotiators may find that the English ICA's long campaign to try to stop CIMA members from gaining the right to call themselves chartered management accountants may have reduced grassroots goodwill. There are also problems at secretariat level. Staff at the various bodies are not noted for embracing radical changes. In fact, the opposite, as they all sit in their generally agreeable headquarters buildings, is the case. This may have to change.

The English ICA has long had a substantial number of departments and support staff in a smallish block in Milton Keynes. This, with glass exterior and interiors and no air conditioning, was less agreeable. But it has now decided to relocate nearly all its staff.

All those from Milton Keynes and central London, other than those deemed important enough to stay in the heart of the City, will move to a new, yet to be built, much larger Milton Keynes block. Logically, if the merger goes through, the CIMA would give up its listed building in Portland Place and move to Milton Keynes. This is not the sort of prospect which spurs mergers on. Meanwhile, the competition among all six accounting bodies will continue, and, should the CIMA/English ICA merger work, we will surely see the other smaller bodies then join in.

This should be something that the profession looks forward to. Sadly, such has been the acrimony over the failed Bishop report efforts to bring all six bodies together, that trust is in short supply. Once, people within the secretariats talked openly to each other. Now they play their own version of party politics where bluff and counter-bluff are more important than sharing strengths and weaknesses and trying to share solutions.



ROBERT BRUCE

Song and joke carry the day

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

THERE was a fine brouhaha at the English ICA's council over the arcane details of "the terms of reference for the regulation review working party". This is not the sort of thing about which people get worked up. But the roly-poly Douglas Liambias started a hare running on "when is a press release not a press release"? The answer, it transpired, is "when it is a press briefing paper". Everything got out of hand and when Chris Swinson, the bulwark of the working party, stood up to defend his position, the air was full of recriminations. Using the old music-hall advice of "you'll never go wrong with a song and a joke", he disarmed them all and the proposals were accepted.

That's showbiz

LAST week saw much razzmatazz of the marketing sort at the Savoy Hotel as Colin Sharman, KPMG senior partner, launched a leadership survey which showed, for example, that Richard Branson was a much admired chap. Will Carling, the England rugby captain, joined in to launch a leadership initiative with the firm. But all this could have blinded the audience to a simultaneous event. Across at the London Marriott hotel, Jim Butler, Sharman's predecessor as senior partner, was giving a talk to the professional services marketing group's national conference. His title? "Professional services marketing — a critical assessment." To judge from what he said, he does not think much of it.

Close shave

FACIAL fuzz has always been frowned upon in the profession, particularly in the old days. Proof of this comes from a framed document in the office of Gerry Acher, KPMG's head of audit. In 1967, when he applied to the firm, he had a beard. He was sent a letter saying that he could have the job, if he had a shave. Archer, as the auditing jargon of today would have it, applied his judgment but followed the rules.

AUDITORS are always being told to put your money where your mouth is. So it is good to see Ian Adam, voluble senior partner of Price Waterhouse in Scotland, taking up the post of finance director at Christian Salvesen.

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Asian Pacific	297.10	316.10	+ 1.80	..
Acctrs. & Earnings	246.40	262.10	- 0.40	2.98
Comdty & Energy	96.26	102.40	- 1.80	..
Euro Convict Inc	130.10	138.10	- 0.40	.78
(Accum Units)	138.90	148.50	- 0.40	.69
General	216.00	229.80†	- 0.80	2.37
Japan	116.50	124.60	- 0.60	..
Motor/Hotel	133.90	143.30	- 0.10	1.74
UK Growth Dist	113.90	121.70	- 0.30	2.83
US Emerging Cos	132.50	142.10	+ 0.20	..
Income & Growth	303.10	326.30	- 1.70	3.34
Ethical	84.40	88.51	- 0.18	2.99
Enhanced	109.40	116.40	- 0.40	1.19
Dividend & Growth	57.16	60.83†	- 0.16	4.82
Global Gwth & Inc	66.28	70.86	+ 0.04	2.97
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.39	£18.50	..	..
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	43.85	45.55	..	0.68
Cash	50.38	50.38	..	4.47
Emerging Mkts	67.25	71.28	- 0.02	0.65
European	108.60	113.40†	- 0.70	..
Exempt	106.60	110.98†	+ 0.08	7.05
Extra Income #	48.79	49.22	+ 0.07	6.12
Far East Emg Eco	107.20	114.30	- 0.90	0.56
Fixed Interest #	22.57	23.69	..	8.73
Fund Inv Tst	160.00	174.60	..	0.95
Japan	166.30	176.20	..	..
Latin American	92.05	54.64	- 0.56	0.69
Pacific	68.13	72.99	- 0.30	0.37
Property Share	58.83	62.80†	- 0.07	2.17
UK Emerging Cos	63.13	63.11†	- 0.08	1.86
UK Growth	42.21	44.72	- 0.15	2.62
Abs World Port #	69.38	70.56	- 0.12	2.32
Ethical	59.82	62.80	- 0.19	2.89
Aberdeen Gil Inc #	49.12	49.12	+ 0.06	7.64
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
031 549 3232				
British Growth	66.45	70.69†	- 0.29	2.72
British Income	76.84	81.75†	- 0.32	3.44
Select Portfolio	61.83	67.05†	+ 0.03	....
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
0452 305 958				
Amity Income	71.10	75.44	- 0.14	2.58
Income Builder Inc	84.79	89.33	- 0.13	3.02
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 0793 610 355 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	217.70	232.70	- 0.10	3.35
Capital	382.70	409.10	- 0.10	2.02
Balanced	537.50	681.40†	- 0.60	2.82
Accumulator	511.85	512.66	- 1.03	3.26
Income Trusts				
American Income	47.33	50.59†	+ 0.27	3.52
High Income	370.50	396.00	+ 0.40	3.90
Equity Income	288.10	222.40†	+ 0.10	3.75
High Yield	224.60	240.00	- 0.20	3.82
Gilt Securities	32.72	34.35†	....	6.14
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	142.80	152.70	+ 1.10	0.46
European Growth	33.32	35.61	+ 0.02	0.81
International	151.50	161.80†	- 0.40	1.29
Japan	183.40	206.10†	- 0.50	0.61
Pacific	358.50	384.40†	- 1.70	0.51
Secs of America	417.10	443.90†	+ 1.50	0.52
Wrldwi Asset Val	45.54	48.66	- 0.06	0.25
Specialist Funds				
Asset Value	488.10	521.70†	- 0.50	2.45
Conv & Gilt	40.83	43.64†	+ 0.09	5.32
Smaller Cos	158.56	169.50†	- 0.40	1.31
2nd Smaller Cos	151.50	161.50	- 0.30	1.50
Recovery	127.30	136.00	+ 0.10	1.93
Mel Min & Cnty	148.80	158.50	- 0.50	0.79
Ocean Earnings	327.30	349.70†	+ 1.10	1.53
Technology	157.16	167.90	+ 0.20	0.61
Uk Special Sits	429.50	449.50	- 0.20	1.59
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0293 528 911				
Dstrbtd Dist Perfc	93.45	97.89	- 1.40	3.04
Foundtn Pens Perfc	58.51	60.76	- 0.97	2.28
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	67.50	71.61†	- 0.51	1.95
International	61.67	65.61†	+ 1.50	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
031 222 4242				
Japanese	288.60	290.70	+ 2.30	..
Bond	109.80	115.60†	+ 0.90	7.19
Brd Shds Cos	92.77	98.69†	- 0.69	1.90
Conv & Gen #	62.43	66.41†	+ 0.03	5.62
Frontier	213.40	227.20	+ 0.50	0.51
Euro Smlr Cos	97.03	103.30	+ 0.60	0.81
Income Gwth	329.50	350.50	- 1.40	4.59
Japan	298.10	307.80	- 0.90	..
Latin American	68.95	71.27	- 0.35	..
Pacific	98.73	104.60	- 0.30	0.77
Ph Shares	98.02	104.30†	- 0.26	1.44
Japan Fd	660.40	680.30†	- 5.31	..
Mngd Fd	165.30	175.80	- 0.80	2.99
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
071 489 6873				
Bnd & Deriv	270.90	285.20	..	1.29
Capital Gwth	108.10	111.70	..	2.40
Wrldw Opps	174.60	183.80	..	0.45
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
081 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	325.10	338.60	- 1.40	3.87
European Bd Inc	97.25	90.36†	+ 0.29	7.90
Exempt	69.01	74.57	- 0.27	4.45
Financial	68.99	73.78	+ 0.18	2.94
500 II	419.60	448.80	- 1.10	2.63
General	256.90	276.90	- 0.70	2.79
Property	246.90	264.00	..	6.30
Trustee	170.40	182.20†	- 0.40	2.56
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40†	..	5.18
Extra Income	111.80	119.60	- 0.10	4.28
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.44	58.34	+ 0.28	8.64
Income	407.60	427.50†	- 0.20	4.35
Income Builder	90.37	94.22	- 0.17	4.91
Intl Income	59.54	63.35†	+ 0.15	3.77
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	110.60	118.00†	- 0.50	2.67
Leisure	114.50	122.50	- 0.70	1.78
Recovery	386.20	413.10	- 0.70	2.93
Smlr Cos Inc	41.74	44.78	+ 0.02	2.05
Special Sits	265.40	283.80	- 0.40	1.70
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	133.50	131.80	+ 0.80	0.73
Asst Acc	253.80	298.10	- 2.20	2.30
Asst Inc	137.70	146.50	- 1.30	2.39
Euro Gwth Inc	145.00	153.90	- 0.50	0.75
Japan Gwth Inc	155.20	164.70	- 0.90	0.75
Japan & Gen Inc	164.80	173.70	- 0.30	..
(Accum Units)	165.90	175.70	- 0.30	..
Japan Spec Sits	74.84	79.28	- 0.50	..
Inter Tech Inc	78.75	84.50	+ 0.06	0.06
Worldwide	159.50	168.40†	- 0.10	0.87
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1024				
American Growth	92.66	98.28	- 0.62	..
Amer Smlr Cos	129.50	138.50	- 0.50	..
Commodities	53.32	57.02	- 0.04	5.70
Eastern	248.90	268.70	+ 1.40	0.10
Equity Income	93.76	99.51	- 0.15	4.50
European Growth	205.60	301.90	- 0.30	0.80
Gensmore	209.80	223.30	- 0.30	0.20
German Growth	72.01	76.39	+ 0.10	0.20
Global Bond	60.74	63.95†	- 0.22	6.26
Global Growth	118.88	126.60	- 0.10	..
Japan Growth	192.60	205.40	- 1.70	..
Japan Smaller	162.70	173.40	- 1.10	..
Nmrcp Trust	75.70	63.95	+ 1.56	..
Portfolio	123.20	131.80	- 0.30	1.80
(Accum Units)	224.70	240.50	- 0.50	1.80
UK Growth	79.30	84.44	- 0.06	1.40
UK Smaller Cos	80.79	86.40	- 0.06	1.80
Select Managers	70.53	75.58	- 0.04	1.18
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 259 3300				
Intl Swith Port Inc	71.01	75.54†	..	..
Special Oppor Inc	51.92	55.23†	..	..

For Secret Dolphin see SEIM Dolphin

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
041 223 6920				
Balanced Growth	99.36	105.14	- 0.35	1.97
(Accum Units)	111.69	118.19	- 0.39	1.97
Smaller Cos	95.34	100.89	+ 0.68	1.26
Higher Yield #	42.15	44.61†	- 0.04	4.78
American Gth Inc	70.54	74.65†	+ 0.07	..
European Growth	132.54	140.29	+ 1.27	..
(Accum Units)	135.19	143.05	- 1.29	..
Global Bond Inc #	36.24	37.19	+ 0.19	7.83
Mngd Philos Inc	39.76	42.08	- 0.20	1.72
(Accum Units)	40.33	42.66	- 0.21	1.72
Int Spec Opps	107.23	113.47	+ 0.13	....
Pacific Gth	115.87	122.62	- 0.84	..
Formerly LAS				
Uk General #	68.99	74.65†	- 1.25	3.73
(Accum Units) #	71.67	77.94	- 1.30	3.73
Japan	57.43	60.78†	- 0.77	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	94.62	96.55	+ 0.63	7.49
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
071 488 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	64.98	66.82	+ 0.29	6.22
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
061 837 3000				
Envirox	148.60	156.00	- 0.50	1.80
UK Growth	157.00	167.10†	- 0.60	2.48
UK Income	128.60	134.70	- 0.20	4.55
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0767 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	178.90	187.80†	- 0.70	2.11
-do- Income Dist	104.80	111.10	- 0.20	4.98
(Accum Units)	316.30	335.30	- 0.70	4.58
Gilt & Fxd Int	38.64	40.95†	+ 0.05	8.64
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
061 236 5693 Enq: 061 236 5693 Dlg: 061 236 5362				
American $ Gen	160.50	169.20	+ 0.70	..
European Inc	75.58	80.06	- 0.05	0.69
Smaller Cos (4-1)	76.47	81.36	- 0.29	0.08
Growth	399.10	421.40	- 0.20	2.62
Income & Growth	379.90	404.30†	+ 1.50	4.16
(Accum Units)	542.10	576.80†	+ 2.00	4.16
Japan & Gen	67.82	71.97	- 0.53	..
Master Portfolio	1566.82	1666.62†	-31.00	2.06
(Accum Units)	£115.62	£120.84	-37.00	2.06
Special Sits	89.45	95.16†	- 0.60	2.53
High Yield	£12.33	£12.72	- 1.00	4.65

For Capital House see Newton

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
071 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	78.96	84.23†	..	2.61
American Portfolio	89.01	94.81	..	1.23
European Portfolio	94.05	100.12	..	0.79
Japanese Portfolio	60.62	64.39†	- 0.47	..
Pacific Portfolio	139.34	148.16	+ 0.11	0.93
UK Inc & Growth	72.54	77.68	..	3.43
Utility & Bond	53.74	54.31	..	7.08
CENT ED OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	627.75	633.45	..	4.88
Fxd In Sec	147.85	148.29	..	9.76
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 382 5000				
UK General Tst	58.75	63.56†	- 0.25	3.15
CCF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 588 1815				
Inc	618.67	625.52	..	4.56
Accum	626.31	636.50	....	....
Fixed Int Inc	120.20	120.42	....	9.53
Fixed Int Acc	167.69	167.95	....	..
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 837 7667				
Intl Growth	113.21	123.87	..	..
UK Income	101.56	108.40	..	5.54
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 497 6666				
Beckman Intl	75.69	80.25	+ 2.16	1.51
Brck Rlto-Tech	25.53	28.25	....	....
Asian Clinical Tst	144.69	152.36	....	0.74
City Fin Assets	69.76	67.77	....	1.32
City Fin Aviation	85.65	90.16	+ 4.72	....
City Fin Intl	71.75	75.53	+ 2.82	0.96
City Fin Japan	151.19	159.15†	+ 1.04	..
Fidas Hse Cap	256.66	277.16†	....	1.78
Fidas Hse Inc	183.62	195.34	....	4.22
Beckley Wald Gth	117.97	124.54	+ 3.66	0.69
Fasanal Cap Gth	127.69	135.74	....	....
Fasanal Intl	129.53	148.44	....	....
City Fin Fdlg Inc	50.83	54.02†	....	4.43
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
0438 764 040				
Growth Inc	54.39	57.86†	- 0.10	3.20
(Accum Units)	58.90	62.65	- 0.11	3.20
High Income	31.99	34.03	+ 0.01	4.90
Japan	30.54	36.68	- 0.03	..
Smaller Cos Inc	28.45	30.26	- 0.06	2.70
Smaller Cos	36.12	32.04	- 0.07	2.70
North American	32.05	34.09	+ 0.15	0.70
European	36.02	38.31	..	0.60
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
071 407 5955				
Consistent UT	29.09	31.21†	....	3.58
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 395				
Growth	132.40	140.90	- 1.80	2.13
Income	95.30	99.51†	- 0.04	5.32
European	58.13	62.91	- 0.09	1.16
Recovery	146.00	155.40	- 0.40	1.95
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
071 283 9494				
Equity Dist	755.90	768.40	....	3.79
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
0277 699 370				
Fellowship Tst	68.77	73.15	+ 0.02	1.35
Income #	222.10	237.30	- 0.80	4.88
(Accum Units) #	548.40	584.40	- 1.40	4.88
Smaller Cos	147.70	157.10†	....	0.61
(Accum Units)	180.50	192.00†	....	0.61
Inv Portfolio	73.81	78.52	+ 0.04	1.52
High Inc Port #	64.37	68.47	+ 0.23	5.08
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	£14.80	£15.15	....	....
Japan Small Cos	£11.89	£12.13	....	....
UK Small Cos	£16.87	£17.69†	....	....
US Small Cos	£15.32	£15.71	....	....
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
071 377 6819				
Disc Inc	193.40	203.60	....	2.78
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
031 315 2500				
European Gwth	267.20	282.40	- 0.70	0.99
Hse Asia	196.20	208.50	....	0.16
Japan Growth	113.80	121.00	- 0.50	..
Jap Smlr Co	467.60	497.80	- 1.20	..
Nth Amer	256.20	271.70	+ 0.50	0.97
Skilled Asia Pac Mt	110.88	117.10	....	0.38
UK Inc & Grth	198.40	211.50	- 1.00	3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
0242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	131.10	139.50	- 0.50	1.92
UK High Inc Inc	139.90	148.80	- 0.30	4.84
(Accum Units)	179.10	190.50	- 0.40	4.84
UK Pref & FI Inc	96.10	59.64	+ 0.38	5.26
Evermaid Opps	78.57	83.59	- 0.22	1.12
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
American	120.60	128.00	+ 0.60	1.37
Convertibles #	19.67	20.90	- 0.04	5.70
Equity Income #	118.10	125.50	- 0.60	4.22
Eurofund	43.57	46.24	- 0.04	0.43
Financial	41.35	43.93	- 0.19	1.71
Growth & Inc #	218.40	232.10†	- 1.10	3.32
High Dist #	144.80	153.90	- 0.70	4.87
International	361.60	384.20	- 1.80	0.13
Int Con Inc	88.91	94.91†	+ 0.08	2.90
Japan American	29.38	31.22	- 0.19	..
Pacific	74.69	79.36	+ 0.21	..
Preference Shre	21.98	23.35†	- 0.01	7.67
Tokyo	210.70	223.90	- 1.00	..
UK Smaller Cos	211.00	224.20	- 0.80	1.33
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
071 240 0242				
Elcon Trust	196.17	209.46	- 3.17	1.16
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 373 7288				
Endurance Fd	183.50	195.20	....	1.03
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0268 431 488				
European	76.58	80.62	+ 0.14	1.65
Ethical Tst	41.68	43.87†	+ 0.12	1.32
Far Eastern	279.30	294.97	- 0.66	2.04
High Income	123.13	129.61	+ 0.13	5.02
Intl Growth	112.77	118.71	+ 0.13	1.36
North American	106.79	112.41	+ 0.11	1.35
Pelican	109.48	115.24	+ 0.15	3.34
Smaller Cos	60.94	67.31	- 0.09	2.61
Special Sits	82.61	86.96	- 0.06	2.46
Tst of Inv Tsts	171.17	180.181	- 0.45	1.60
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 407 5866				
Smaller Cos Inc	191.72	198.73	- 0.48	1.47
Smaller Cos Acc	325.47	349.45	- 0.82	1.47
Recovery	48.86	50.92	- 0.06	1.39
Recovery Acc	48.40	51.46	- 0.06	1.39
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0392 412 144				
Balanced	107.39	114.49	+ 0.15	6.08
Capital Growth	75.62	81.06	- 0.03	....
Fd of Inv Tsts	41.74	44.52†	+ 0.01	0.65
High Income #	40.75	43.67†	- 0.17	10.53
Managed	50.65	53.52	- 0.05	....
Zero Preference	36.63	38.87	- 0.02	....
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0273 220 707				
Family Accnt Tst	72.79	77.43†	- 0.12	2.64
Family Income Tst	45.17	45.17†	- 0.07	6.31
Family Trust	79.93	84.39†	- 0.25	1.52
United Charities	247.50	263.70	- 0.80	3.95
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Dealing: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.78
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	25.64	26.54†	+ 0.12	7.77
Intl Bond	27.34	28.32†	+ 0.16	5.35
Income Funds				
High Income	23.63	24.87†	+ 0.03	5.24
Income Plus	109.60	110.20	- 0.10	4.32
Amer Gr Inc	43.98	45.79†	+ 0.24	2.69
European Income	49.58	53.15	+ 0.16	1.78
Far East Inc	59.28	63.05	+ 0.05	2.06
Global Convertible	21.65	23.07	+ 0.01	3.74
Uk Dv Grth	23.07	24.54	- 0.06	1.91
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	59.59	63.57	- 0.07	....
American	234.50	248.40	+ 1.30	....
Amer Spec Sits	111.00	118.50	+ 0.60	....
Japan Smaller Cos	32.63	39.25	- 0.16	....
European	162.50	172.80	+ 0.20	....
European Opps	69.57	64.41	+ 0.02	....
Global Pen	23.49	25.00	+ 0.01	1.64
UK Growth	85.42	90.85	+ 0.03	....
Growth & Inc	133.63	142.19†	- 0.69	2.45
Intl PEP	34.84	37.05	- 0.06	....
Japan Spec Sits	98.53	94.29†	- 0.33	....
Japan	169.90	192.80	- 0.90	....
Managed Intl	258.00	276.00	+ 0.20	....
Moneymarket	50.04	53.21	....	....
Recovery	44.92	47.77	- 0.05	....
South E Asia	137.20	146.40	- 0.96	....
Special Sits	484.40	515.10	- 0.40	....
Specialist Funds				
Euro Acorns Units	108.10	108.10	+ 0.02	5.70
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 814 2760				
Balanced #	128.30	131.20	+ 2.40	1.62
Inc Photo #	80.90	82.37	- 0.01	4.66
Cap Photo	182.70	195.10†	- 0.30	1.36
Colonial Dsps	115.50	117.40	+ 1.70	3.57
Growth Inc	208.42	25.83	- 0.11	1.85
Private Portfolio	383.70	391.80	+ 10.60	1.34
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 291 010				
Hyde Foreign & Colonial				
European	108.70	114.90	+ 0.20	0.59
Emrg Asian	157.50	168.40	+ 0.20	..
High Income	28.58	31.95†	- 0.02	10.25
Ocean Income	95.70	92.82	+ 0.30	2.47
UK Growth	100.20	107.30†	- 0.30	1.71
UK Income	99.56	105.20	- 0.20	3.86
US Smaller Cos	292.10	312.40	+ 1.80	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0371 407 5566				
High Inc Exp	44.88	47.19	- 0.18	3.46
-do- Inv Tst Inc	68.12	72.68	- 0.09	4.39
Intl Growth	64.44	67.76	....	1.31
Investment Trust	81.78	85.86	- 0.01	....
UK Special Cos	74.56	78.39†	- 0.12	1.02
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
071 374 4100				
American Growth	65.42	68.29	+ 0.37	....
(Accum Units)	65.42	68.29	+ 0.31	....
Amer Smalle Cos	464.50	488.80	+ 5.00	5.67
(Accum Units)	474.50	507.50	+ 5.10	....
Capital Tst	368.60	388.00	- 0.70	1.61
(Accum Units)	413.60	436.80	- 1.10	1.61
Cont Smalle Cos	56.97	61.10	+ 0.26	0.50
(Accum Units)	59.91	64.35	+ 0.21	0.50
Convertible	150.50	158.20†	- 0.10	5.67
(Accum Units)	243.50	256.00†	....	5.67
Emerging Markets	67.38	71.19	- 0.09	....
(Accum Units)	67.45	72.05	- 0.09	....
European	113.40	120.50	- 0.30	0.14
(Accum Units)	118.80	126.30	- 0.30	0.14
Extra Income	208.40	220.00†	- 0.70	4.08
(Accum Units)	464.70	494.20†	- 1.60	4.08
Financial	117.60	126.50	+ 0.78	0.30
(Accum Units)	123.90	133.20	+ 0.60	0.30
Gilt Trust	61.35	63.25	+ 0.54	6.37
Growth & Income	177.38	188.50	- 0.30	3.32
(Accum Units)	367.80	384.70	- 0.50	3.32
Intl Growth	343.60	367.80	+ 0.80	....
(Accum Units)	381.50	406.40	+ 0.80	....
Japan & Gen	161.50	172.10	- 3.70	....
(Accum Units)	163.10	174.80	- 3.80	....
Managed Port Inc	98.90	104.10	....	1.47
(Accum Units)	104.80	110.20	- 0.10	1.47
Quarterly Income	49.87	53.04	- 0.09	4.76
(Accum Units)	53.04	56.41	- 0.10	4.76
Recovery	324.00	346.40†	+ 0.70	0.13
(Accum Units)	361.40	407.80†	+ 0.80	0.13
UK Growth	50.65	54.12	+ 0.13	2.79
(Accum Units)	52.39	55.96	+ 0.14	2.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing: 0705 881300 Enqs: 0705 881340				
FP Am Smlr Cos	110.80	118.50	+ 1.10	0.0
FP Asian Growth	236.50	253.60	+ 0.20	0.0
FP Energy Dist	359.80	381.30	+ 1.80	2.81
FP Eur Basin Dist	299.80	308.30†	- 1.20	2.21
-do- Accum	295.80	314.60†	- 1.20	0.21
FP Income	50.51	53.97	- 0.11	4.27
(Accum Units)	163.50	174.40	- 0.30	4.27
FP Jap Smlr Cos	331.70	354.80	+ 0.60	0.0
FP Monthly Dist	67.54	72.08†	- 0.36	6.16
FP Sfg Deposit	100.40	100.40†	....	5.25
FP Tokyo	81.98	87.44	- 0.13	0.0
FP UK Focus	34.15	36.72	- 0.06	0.01
FP UK Growth	160.30	171.60†	- 0.30	0.37
(Accum Units)	310.40	331.90	- 1.10	2.82
Stewardship Dist	308.00	327.80	- 0.30	2.09
-do- Accum	370.60	400.80	- 0.40	2.09
Stewardship Inc Dist	67.22	71.51†	- 0.35	3.67
-do- Accum	67.19	92.75†	- 0.04	3.67
N Am Scalp Dist	93.60

Equities down a fraction

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	350½	Abbey Nat	433	+ 4	4.5	14.6
314	233	Allied Irish	270		4.1	10.4
278½	171	Aus NZ	225	- 4	5.3	7.8
3300	2462½	Bank America	3000	- 25		
47	172½	Bank Scotland	207	- 1	3.2	11.7
640	487	Barclays	595	- 3	3.5	14.6
319	246	Bk of Ireland	274		4.7	3.0
2912½	2262½	Citicorp	2787½	+ 12½		
395	293	Close Bros	320		4.2	10.1
£150	£121½	Commerzbk	£132½	- 281½	6.3	
1299½	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan	1087½	- 75	0.5	
£348	£210	Deutsche Bk	£297½		2.3	
131½	72½	Espirito Santo	77½	+ 3½	5.0	3.8
96	57	First Nat Fin	68		2.9	43.4
1541	1152½	Fuji Bank	1356½	- 27½	0.4	
472	209	Hambros	238		7.9	14.6
1113	589	HSBC	664	- 5	4.6	9.6
1133	578	HSBC HK	656	- 4	4.7	9.5
443	391	Jospeh (L)	375			
693	424	Kleinwort Ben	627	+ 2	3.8	11.1
660	519	Lloyds	551	+ 6	5.2	10.8
620	475	Nat Aust Bk	503	- 21	7.1	
622	421	Nat West	487	- 3	5.0	9.5
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2150		6.6	
79	53	Fox Bros	64		1.9	17.9
528	373½	Roy Bk Scot	405	+ 8	4.2	11.6
1574	1050	Schroders	1521	+ 40	1.5	13.9
1458	943	Schroders NV	1358	+ 33	1.7	12.5
114	72	Singer & Fried	85		4.5	10.3
359½	233	Stand Chart	253	- 3	3.0	9.0
291	197	TSB	246	- 2	4.6	
1012	569	Warburg SG	736	- 12	2.7	13.5
£105	8112½	Wells Fargo	9950	- 31½	3.0	
260	94	Westpac	225½	- 2½	2.6	
390	203	Wintrust	228		5.9	15.9

BREWERIES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1025	130	Ascot Hldgs	154			
619	435	Bass	518	- 2	5.1	12.8
299	243	Boddington	344	- 4	4.3	13.1
196	168	Burtonwd Brw	173		3.7	14.5
181	142	Eldridge P 'A'	167	- 2	2.1	29.3
66	48½	Fosters Brewing	56		5.1	12.9
493	343	Fuller Sm 'A'	358	- 2	2.9	14.8
511	353	Greenalls Grp	414	- 15	4.0	13.6
584	452	Greene King	485	- 25	3.4	13.2
267	239	Hardy Hansn	260		4.5	
170	135	Heavitree	150		1.8	
3173	3125	Hart J	3388	- 13	1.8	18.6
248	195	Marstons	233	- 5	3.4	14.6
314	256	Merton Thmp	284	- 12	2.7	13.8
545	440	Morland	450	- 8	3.0	13.5
10	6½	Paramount	7		3.6	16.5
329	209	Regent Inns	320		2.1	24.5
1665	1000	SA Breweries	1462½	- 19½	2.0	22.5
591	477	Scot & Newt	499	- 1	4.4	14.3
306	214	Vaux Group	216	- 9	5.7	12.2
491	324	Wetherspoon JD	451	- 11	1.8	25.4
617	494	Whitbread	501	- 5	4.5	14.5
587	485	Wolverhamptn D	497	- 15	3.6	12.8
208	148	Yates Bros	192	+ 1	2.5	15.1
539	450	Young 'A'	458		4.1	19.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
205	130	Abbey†	130		5.0	9.5
200	143	Allen	153	+ 5	4.6	14.3
164	61	Amec	67		5.6	38.7
169	47	Andrews Sykes	165	+ 1		
463	333	Ashtead	422	+ 1	1.6	26.7
191	97½	Avonside	99		5.6	11.6
41	26	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		2.5	21.4
88	18½	Barcom	45			
292	139	Barratt Dev	169		4.4	13.1
169	122	Bellway Homes	133		5.1	10.5
304	179	Bellway	183		4.8	10.8
37	31	Bellwinch	37	+ 1		32.5
573	321	Berkeley Gp	321	- 2	2.8	10.2
215	118	Bett Bros	178		3.2	5.5
366	210	Bool (Henry)	225		3.7	11.1
11	35	Boxdon Hire	112	+ 2	1.7	
112	135	Br Bldg & Eng	135		7.4	8.4
19	105	Bryant	110	+ 2	5.8	10.3
14	98	CALA	100		3.5	13.8
5	31	Campell & Arm	33			
4	44	Clarke T	52½		3.0	44.1
	17½	Costain	22½			
18	100	Countryside	100	- 2	5.4	12.3
12	72	Crest Nicholson	80		2.5	14.8
14	91	Dartons	91		4.7	11.0
3	17	Edmond Hldgs	19		2.1	
47	238	Eve Group	243		5.7	9.9
3	24	Galliford	28		4.5	
11	87	Gibbs & Dandy	88		3.8	
102	823	Gleeson (MJ)	863		2.1	14.8
9	71	Green (Ernest)	84		8.9	25.9
19	121	Havelock Euro	197		1.9	18.0
16	138	Hewden-Stuart	148		2.5	17.0
14	85	Higgs & Hill	85		3.7	
	19	Howard Hldgs	19		5.3	17.7
	6	Jarvis	9			
13	103	Keller	103	- 3	4.6	11.9
16	200	Laing (J)	200		5.6	18.1
	90½	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	92	+ ½	8.7	
11	115	Lon Clydeside†	117		5.7	
11	48	Lovell (YJ)	48	- 1	2.7	5.8
13	196	Maunders (J)	207	- 1	3.3	12.4
12	154	McAlpine (A)	163		5.0	23.9
3	50½	McCarthy & S	54			19.0
	56	Morgan Sindall	56		0.2	
18½	94	Mowlem (J)	97		2.6	
37½	170	Persimmon	170	- 1	6.8	12.7
240	1450	Pochins	2318½		1.7	23.2
11	116	Prowting	116		3.9	17.7
	44½	Raine Ind	59½		7.4	10.5
	45	Secure Retire	46			14.9
13	93	Redrow	97	- 1	3.5	9.6
	50	Swift-Rex	55		1.7	25.9
39	233	Sherill Hldgs†	390		1.8	16.3
	62½	Shanks	100		4.7	14.0
29	195	Smart (J)	205		5.2	21.5
	155½	Spanish	258		1.2	20.8
25	151	Tay Homes	173		4.7	12.7
18	114½	Taylor Woodrw	127		1.7	31.0
78	523	Tilbury Dougls	523		7.9	40.1
6	36	Tores Hart	60		2.9	21.0
4	19	Try Group	19		3.3	
12	90	Vibroplant	106		4.4	19.0
17	111	Wardlomes	130		5.5	12.1
1	48	Ward Hldgs	53		1.2	
22	126	Westbury	126	- 1	5.4	11.5
	3¾	Wiggins	5			
25	140	Wilson (C)	141	- 2	3.7	11.7
57	311	Wilson Bowdn	316	+ 1	3.8	14.1
24	113	Wimpey G	123	- 1	5.3	18.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
22	12	Abingtoni	14		4.5	23.6
341	283	Alumasc	339		2.2	
69	45½	Amberley Gpt	51		3.1	26.2
353	274	BPB Ind	321	- 2	3.3	16.5
142	93	Baggeridge Brit	123		3.2	12.7
60	30	Bardon	32½		7.7	
93	58	Blockleys	89		1.6	
391	262	Blue Circle	281	- 2	5.0	20.0
117	72	Breedon PLC	74	- 1	7.8	21.2
154	128	Br Dredging	134	- 1	5.2	16.1
409	321	CRH	370		2.6	18.8
70	31	Cakebread Rby	41			4.4
278	198	Cape	209		6.6	13.3
455	224	Caradon	247	+ 2	4.5	16.4
215	114	Caradon pl	123	+ 1	7.4	
62	46	Chelfam Gp	54		8.1	10.8
134	89	Dyson (J&J)†	107		4.1	16.1
97	64	Dyson 'A'†	64		6.8	9.6
13	4½	Eclipse Blinds	12			
350	273	Erwin	282		3.5	16.7
82	57	Erith	62		2.8	34.9
218	160	Graham Grp	176		3.3	16.8
399	312	Halstead (J)	312		3.0	14.4
511	282	Heywood	285		6.5	16.2
88	46	Hewdon	83		2.3	14.3
152½	63½	Hewitt (J)▲	88	- 2	2.5	
473	247	Heywd Wms	260		6.5	14.7
100	67	Ibstock	80		1.6	
294	149	Johnston	269		2.1	32.3
170	94	Lilleshall	95		6.2	10.0
213½	124	Marley	129	+ 1	4.1	15.3
155	124	Marshalls†	127		4.4	11.3
569	325	Meyer Int	350		3.9	13.6
196	146	Newman Tnks	162		5.0	20.5
212½	88	Norcros	90		9.7	17.1
20	9	Phoenix Timber	13			
208	143	Pilkington†	151	+ 2	3.3	29.1
185	125	Polypipe	125		2.3	14.4
1079	805	RMC Gp	839	- 5	2.8	19.4
40	13	Ramus	13			
640	415	Redland	439	+ 5	7.1	20.3
130	70	Rockel	109		4.9	
185½	102½	Rugby Group	117	+ 2	3.7	14.7
103	82	Russell (A)	89		3.2	18.3
288	216	SIG	238		2.9	19.1
31	16	SMP	18½		1.4	25.7
200	116	Sharpe & Fisher	176		3.1	12.9
81½	36	Spring Ram	41	+ 1	1.5	
306	97	Tarmac	114	- ½	6.0	
220	17	Tilbury	157		3.6	12.6
370	74	Travis Perkins	286		3.6	17.6
28	11	Tudor	35		1.2	
54	13	Unigroup	35			
63	13	Waterhouse	43			
129	15	Wickes	95	+ 1	1.7	21.3
975	15	Wolseley	782	- 1	2.6	15.8

BUSINESS SERVICES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3½	1½	Anglo Utd	1½			
110	8	App Hold	70			
165	16	Allwoods	118		5.3	
11	7	Bailey (CH)	8½			
48		Black Arrow	43		9.0	6.9
124		Br Bloodstock	79	- 2		70.9
13		Caird Gp	5½			16.0
10½		Charnes†	6		2.1	
157	10	Cosalt	145		6.9	9.8
237	16	Filofax	220	+ 4	1.2	18.8
50		Headway	42		2.1	32.7
282	23	Holzwkit†	263		3.5	13.0
348	15	Leigh	188		5.9	15.3
274	20	Nobo Gpt	227	- 3	3.4	14.7
310	20	Photo-Me†	223		2.7	21.6
60	3	Plant & Gen	56		3.9	
12½		Porth Group	4½			
51½		Rodime	9			
120	75	Shanks & McEwan	82		3.2	
244	176	Sinclair (Wm)	171		5.2	13.2
700	323	Waste Mgt Intl	323	- 22		

CHEMICALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	115	Allied Colloids	116		2.6	16.4
790	705	Amber Ind	780		3.4	15.5
£140¼	£106	BASF DM	£131½	- 806¼	3.7	
787	627	BOC	718		4.3	26.5
373	272	BTP†	272	- 4	4.7	15.4
£160¼	£129	Bayer DM50	£147½	- 503½	3.1	
171	97	Blagden	111		1.7	51.9
131	98	Brent Chems	107		4.7	
309	215	Br Vita	217	- 1	4.3	16.2
46	18	Cambridge Iso	31			
199	153	Canning (W)	187		4.9	31.6
580	401	Courtaulds	425	+ 3	4.4	29.0
389	327	Croda	352		3.0	15.1
143	95	Dallco	128		4.5	12.9
58½	35½	Euro Colour	86		2.6	19.1
149	110	Ebbon	118		5.8	10.9
223	108	Hickson	127		7.9	11.4
£153½	£108½	Hoechst	£138½	+ 225	2.7	
250	153½	Holliday Chem	208		2.6	17.0
868	727	ICI	747	+ 2	4.6	60.3
191½	97½	Laporte	102	+ 1	5.4	9.7
843	640	Laporte	659	- 8	4.0	16.7
95	46	MTM	82		0.8	
405	290	Manders	304		4.1	14.8
127	100	McLeod Russel	115		6.7	12.6
128	56½	Octopus	61		7.1	8.2
679½	356½	Perstorp	454½	+ 1½	4.4	30.7
349	265	Plysu	300		2.0	
272	186	Rentokil	194	- 1	3.8	15.8
66	28	Scottish Speciality	28		3.1	16.5
852½	656	Shell Chem	762½	- 22½	0.9	13.9
480	325	Warne	327	+ 2	6.6	18.2
320	186	Wellington Hldgs	187		3.5	18.1
823	570	Wolstenholme R	773	- 2	3.1	16.1
483	345	Yorks Chem	361	- 3	2.9	15.6
336	257	Yule Catto	258		3.2	19.6

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	98	ABI Leis	99		5.1	11.4
317	243	Acal	308		2.8	16.7
535	353	Adam & Harvey	585		3.3	7.5
31	20	Alexanders	21	+ 1	6.2	
175	103	Applevard	102		7.1	18.0
6	3½	Arc Br Eng	4½		1.4	32.1
578	495	BSG Group	528		4.4	18.3
25½	17	Beaming Power	23		5.4	11.8
436	249	Blanchley Mtr	253		5.2	10.4
40	28	Bogod 'A'	28		3.1	11.8
370	288	Bunzl	347		4.7	19.3
31	15	Bridgend Gp	15		1.7	78.0
99	78	Brit Fittings	95		3.0	
71	40	Brown & Tawse	42	- 1		
57	36	Burndene†	39	+ 1	6.2	
465	245	Callens	258		5.6	42.4
33	19½	Camet Plc	19½	- ½	7.1	18.8
130	74	Central Mtr	74	- 2	4.8	
51	32½	Coon (DC)	39		3.7	12.0
342½	197½	Cowie	326		5.0	11.2
193½	127	Dag Motors	138		5.9	15.9
653	446	Dennons El	588		1.4	14.5
628	414½	Diploma	440		3.8	15.4
589	443	Electrocomps	481		2.7	19.7
175	133	Electron House†	158	- 5	2.8	13.3
283	225	Ellis & Everard†	252		3.9	16.7
234	200	Erndottar	208		5.3	15.6
173	105	European Mtr	103	- 1	5.5	11.2
537½	378	Evans Halshaw	378	- 1	4.7	11.9
656	490½	Farnell Elect	549		1.8	22.5
78	50	Fife Indmar	55		8.2	8.1
34	15	Gardiner	20½		5.0	
46	19	Glenchewton	21½			23.7
90	60	Gowrings	71		3.5	21.5
76	59	Hadlin Hldgs	67			52.1
172	122	Harris (Philip)	169		5.1	14.8
342½	258	Heltec	259		3.6	13.9
191	88	Holders Tech	97		7.7	10.5
138	105	ISA Intl	105		2.0	13.1
609	299	Inchcape	310	- 2	6.0	10.3
68	35	Jacks (Wm)	58			13.4
184	145	Kwik-Fit	150	- 1	3.3	17.2
373	288	Lex Service	288	- 2	9.8	11.0
282	162	Lookers	175		5.5	
20	14	Mallow Grp	14	- ½	2.2	
9	3½	Muddleson C	7			
440	279	Northam	402		0.7	17.9
100	47	Northamber	91		1.8	38.6
175	152	PCT	152		6.1	14.7
310	231	Pendragon	231		4.1	15.2
138	130	Perry Gp	133		6.7	7.1
219	135	Quarts Group	135		5.2	13.3
166	97	REA	165		4.5	34.1
5½	2½	Reece	2½			
24	4	Ross Gp	5		5.0	
42	37½	SLP Indl	40		3.3	
44	31	TLS Range	42		3.0	16.9
265	215	Time Products	227		4.8	15.3
221	151	Vaux (Reg)	168		3.9	12.4
325	249	Wholesale Ftgs	242		6.1	21.4
50½	13½	Wills Gp	15		4.2	8.4
77½	25½	Wollaw	63½		1.2	23.4
69	40	Wyeo†	64		2.0	21.7
96	61	Young (H)	80		5.6	15.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
202	148	Aewest	152		6.2	15.5
380	199½	Antofagasta	315	- 5	1.4	25.5
62	47	Armour	47½		4.7	9.9
997	773½	Broken Hill	870	- 15	2.4	18.1
401	273	BTR	314	+ 7	5.0	16.6
570	372	BAT	456	+ 4	5.7	11.9
270½	120½	Bensford Ind▼	232	- 3	0.3	61.4
91	49	Baxby (J)	79		4.7	14.6
57½	44	Bremley Ltd	46½	+ 1	9.3	2.6
856	636½	Charter	765	- 4	3.8	22.4
285	215	Cookson	223½	- 3½	3.6	20.2
302	217½	Hanson	238	+ 2	6.3	16.4
220	136	Hanson Crdtd	141	+ 1	8.0	16.0
365½	200½	Hatch Whtmp	250	- 1½	2.3	17.6
710	409½	Jardine Math	523½	- 3½	2.8	11.8
36	27½	Jourdan (T)	29		4.3	28.8
175½	124½	Lonrho†	151½		3.7	26.5
44	16	Porter Chadbn	40½			
685½	463	Powell Duffryn▼	463	- 1	6.7	13.0
164	118½	Regner	127		7.4	14.4
489	337	Rothmans	463	+ 4	5.2	22.5
34½	9½	Salbe	14	- ½		3.4
163½	105	Sime Darby	142	+ 1	3.1	18.1
267	164	Stavely	166		6.4	51.1
288	152	Suter	153½		7.6	14.8
268	220	TT Group	236	+ 2	2.3	
283	202	Tomkins†	236	- 3	4.1	15.2
124	62½	Trafalgar Ht	66½	- ½	1.9	
440	245	Unitate	285		6.3	
324	246½	Wassall	271	- 1	1.7	23.3
13½	9½	Widney	10½		2.5	15.6
414½	309	Williams Hldg	342	+ 5	4.8	21.1

ELECTRICITY

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
894½	610½	East Midlands†	759	+ 10	4.5	31.9
866	566	Eastern Grp†	687	- 1	4.5	15.0
776	534	London Elect	782	+ 15	4.4	10.7
896	635	Manweb†	791	+ 8	4.3	9.5
845½	547	Midlands Elect	748	+ 11	4.2	11.5
520	404½	National Power	476	- 3	4.1	13.1
1065	580	Northern Elect	978	+ 19	3.6	11.7
421	329	Nthn Ireland†	348	- 3	4.3	9.5
867	587	Norweb†	809	+ 4	3.8	9.8
682	449	PowerGen	507	- 2	3.7	10.9
477	307	Hydro-Electr	314	- 3	5.2	9.9
486	324	Scottish Power†	335	- 2	4.8	10.6
690	299	Seeboard	431	+ 17	3.6	11.8
912	591	Sth Wales†	799	+ 14	4.6	10.8
889	551	Sth Western†	800	+ 17	3.9	10.6
837	540	Southern Elect	714	- 4	4.3	18.4
909½	604½	Yorkshire Elect	810	+ 16	4.3	13.9

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
109	83	Acorn Comp	94		1.3	19.5
650	478	Admiral	635		3.3	15.1
300	163	Alba	195		2.2	
250	126½	Amstrad	141	+ 8		
39	24	Arlen	37			
94½	77	Astec	78		1.4	16.0
281	118	Azlan	128	- 1	2.9	10.3
478	287	BICC	326	+ 3	7.4	20.6
283	239	Beales Hunter†	243		5.1	
16	7	Berkeley Bus	10			
535	402	Black	483		3.2	15.3
380	280	Bowthorpe	310	- 1	2.8	17.8
21½	14½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	18½	- ½	1.7	18.9
283	194	CML Micro	194		3.9	12.4
67	32	Channel Hldgs	33	+ 1	4.7	9.4
35½	13	Colorsfert	21½		0.6	59.5
85	60	Claymore	65		5.1	
180	81	Copyrose	150		3.6	
202	145	Cray Elect†	153		2.0	17.8
474	412	Critchley	468		2.3	19.7
403	289	Dania Bs Sys	354	- 5	0.6	25.9
586	430	Delta	458	- 2	4.0	19.6
585	400	Domino†	403		2.3	
79	63	Dowding Mills	68		4.7	24.8
1635	1220	Druck†	1503		0.9	25.6
3756½	2300	Electrolux 'B'	3256½	+ 12½	3.3	
38½	21	Emess	29½	+ 1	0.4	
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3665½	+ 15½	1.1	31.4
86	56	Eurocopy	67		3.8	13.1
451	343	Eurotherm†	402	+ 4	1.7	20.7
410	334½	Falrey Group	379		2.1	20.0
289	180	Forward Gp	242		2.8	15.2
58	14½	Forward Tech	41	+ 1	2.3	8.5
353½	259	GEC†	294		4.7	14.5
191	102	Gestetner	109	+ 1	2.8	
191	119	Goodby	125	- 8	6.0	11.7
193	121	Ind Control	141		4.4	11.9
385	263½	Kenwood Appl	263½	- 1½	4.4	13.0
1325	730	Kerstow (A)	1325		3.2	9.8
165	38	Kode	69	+ 11	7.2	
56	36	LPA Indl	36		5.6	25.6
320	250	MTL Inst	298		1.8	18.0
281	210	Memlec-Sw	260	- 1	2.2	18.1
45	31	Microvitec	36	+ ½		18.0
494	185	Mitel	313	+ 1		
91	60	Pacer Systems	67		6.6	24.2
98	74½	Peak	79		5.4	19.9
2175	1400	Philips Lmp nv	2046½	+ 6½	0.9	9.1
359	293	Plico	298	- 2	2.0	18.9
344	278	Plico 'A' Vtg	278	- 7	2.0	17.8
140	70	Plasmec	118		4.0	
129	90	Pressac	104	+ 1	3.4	20.0
43½	17½	Prosteck	25			
303	181	Psion	353		1.4	18.4
261	187	Racal Elect†	222	- 2	2.5	18.2
53	33	Radamec	46		5.2	12.6
311	211	Ranboro	211	- 2	2.7	15.4
89	15	Scantronic	18½			
49	34	Sherwood	44	+ 2	2.3	26.1
94	53	Soundtracks	53		6.1	
104	38	Sim Bust	54		8.6	
19	9	TDS Circuits	9½			
3325	2265½	TDK	2787½	- 28½	1.2	
447	174½	Tadpole Tech	230	+ 11		
170	77	Telemetrix	80		1.6	10.2
101	51	TGI	89		3.2	16.6
385	191	Telspec	344		0.9	41.6
246	133	Thorpe FW	236		1.7	17.3
142	117	TLF	138		3.2	19.8
41	22	Total Systems	37	- 1		38.4
303	215	Tunstall	240		2.0	16.1
391	256	Unitech†	380		2.3	19.1
15½	8	Verity	9			24.2
483	378	Volex	378		6.1	15.8
200	60	Wolstenbume	70			
167	93	Whitecroft	167		2.6	18.3

ENGINEERING

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
185	119	ABM†	188	- 1	3.1	
138	47½	APV	57½		9.6	
216	145½	ASW	198		3.8	
126	20½	Aero Hmble	34		13.7	9.4
21½	14	Aerospace Eng	17	+ 1	5.6	
73	27½	Alvis†	45½		3.7	
175	138	Ash & Lacy	138		5.8	14.3
553	490	Atlas Econo	553		5.0	18.4
125	66	Aysliffe Mstd	120		1.6	14.7
40½	26	Babcock	27½			
176	132	BWI	132	- 1	6.3	20.2
86	54	Baynes (Charles)	78		2.8	20.0
95	33	Beaudest	36			
226	110	Bilam (J)	117		5.7	7.3
329	262	Bodycote	324		2.1	22.1
81	43	Booth Inds	81			
20	13½	Brammer	14		4.7	13.2
171	120	Braden	156		3.2	
578½	386½	Br Aerospace	474	- 2	2.4	41.6
172½	121½	Br Steel	151½	- 2	2.9	18.3
125	86½	Brooks Tool	90		6.3	15.1
18½	9½	Brooke Tool	12½		1.0	
51	24½	Brunel	46½			
186	135	Bullough	150	+ 2	5.0	
85	55	Burnfield	75		3.1	32.2
22	14	Cl Group	16		2.3	
293	247	Carclo Engl	259		5.0	15.7
158	110	Castings	157	- 1	2.2	19.3
230	158	Chamberlin Hill	150		5.6	9.5
380	272	Chemring†	308		4.0	14.5
296½	178	Clyde Blowers	179		3.1	
337	235	Cobham	304	+ 1	3.2	15.2
688	403	Cohen (A)	508		0.8	
263	178	Concentric	186		4.1	14.6
310	231	Cook (Wm)	231	- 4	4.1	10.9
296	198	David Brown	218	- 2	3.8	15.4
97	68	Dobson Park	70		6.7	
442	343	ES	348		4.5	14.0
101	68	Elvell (B)	94		3.7	14.1
118	60	Expamet	83		3.9	58.8
212	141½	FKI	143	+ 1	3.7	16.5
148	109	Fenner	137		1.4	63.8
45	18	Ferrum	18			
88	73	GEI Intl	88		3.6	16.1
134	91	Galen Eng	120		4.8	
404	295	Glynwed	308	- 1	4.7	18.0
14½	10	Graystone	12½		2.4	10.6
85	61	Haden MacLn	66½	- ½	3.8	17.2
158	90	Hadleigh	153		2.0	17.4
320	143	Hall Eng	148		6.8	11.6
356	193½	Halmat	193½		1.7	20.9
73	47	Hampson Indl	53		4.8	9.9
48	26	Hay (Norman)	27			
184½	122	Hill & Smith	125		6.2	
63	35	Hopkinsons	59		2.8	
41	27	How Gp	35		2.7	
103	78	Howden	82		3.9	13.3
265	157	Hunting	170		7.4	24.3
379	286	IMI	307	+ 4	4.2	25.6
51	33½	Johnson & FB	40½			
628	488	Johnson Matth	529	+ 6	2.9	19.6
32	25	Jones Stroud	30			
335	230	Kelsey Indl	317		5.1	
271	205	Laird	271		3.2	16.9

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
66	31	AAF Inds	38			
160	108	Airflow Stream	159		3.1	15.6
639	440	Avon Rubber†	442		4.7	15.9
236	173	BBA	192	+ 1	2.9	
86½	54	BSG	58½	- ½	7.1	35.3
18½	8½	Benson Group	17½	- ½	3.5	16.1
306	180	Bostrom	230		2.6	16.5
28½	17	Boustead†	21		6.0	
22	10½	Clerdale	10½		1.7	18.9
353	275	ERF	353	+ 1	1.4	
394	296	First Techt	393		1.7	22.7
660	510½	GKN	582	+ 13	4.4	34.1
4387½	2337½	General Mtr	2525		2.0	
1239	918½	Honda Motor	1006½	- 1½	0.5	
432½	306	Laird	322	+ 11	4.2	15.6
350	333	Lucas	345			
239	158	Lucas	187	+ 2	4.7	
64	50	Mayflower	57		3.1	23.2
124	61	Mintalthe	54			8.8
178	149	Sutone	158		4.0	17.5
261	140	T & N	157	- 5	8.6	13.7
333	263	Trinity Hldgs	329		2.5	23.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
607	499	AB Food†	603		3.3	12.5
368	248	Acatos & Hutch	263		4.4	9.8
74	40	Albert Fisher	44	+ 2	10.5	13.0
270	205	Banks (S C)	206	- 4	6.0	9.4
387	305	Barr (AG)†	378		2.6	
72	18	Bensons Crsp	24	- 1		
487	378	Booker	387	+ 4	7.1	14.2
56½	44½	Borthwick	44½		3.7	21.1
212	156	CPL Aromas	195		1.9	18.6
524	370	Cadbury-Schwt	412	- 1	4.7	13.6
287	143	Carrs Milling	263		2.9	11.9
167	130	Cranswick	153		6.8	11.1
154	90	Dalepak	118	- 1	2.1	
543	389	Dalgety	417	+ 2	6.6	11.4
87	49	Daniels S	49		0.8	
284	210	Devro	216	- 1	3.6	14.6
101	52	Everest	94		3.3	35.3
8½	4½	Fairingford	4½			
85	68	Finlay (James)	69		7.5	9.4
20½	13	Global	13		4.8	11.8
77	38	Grand Central	50	- 1		
430	325	Greencore	430		3.0	11.3
194	102	Hazlewood Fds	112	+ 2	7.5	7.8
175	151	Hillsdown	175		6.3	12.5
28	16	Hobson	24			
111	69	JLI Group	70	- 13	8.7	9.9
408	313	Linton Park	345		6.3	8.9
127	85	Matthews (B)	98	+ 2	3.4	11.9
181	160	Mstn ED & F	165		6.5	8.1
246	205	Nichols (JN)	231		3.2	14.8
271½	193	Nthn Foods†	206		5.3	10.5
14	9	Nolenbao Fn	11	+ ½		
46	23	Pascoe's	23			
81	62	Perkins Food	64	- 1	8.7	10.7
96	73	Seeley Farm	95		3.8	9.6
122	71	Sims Food	75		12.5	
467½	392	Tate & Lyle	427	- 1	4.2	8.8
238	145	Trust	230	+ 1	2.5	
434½	317	Unigate	362	+ 1	6.1	9.9
1247	958	Unilever	1169	+ 1	2.7	18.8
8118½	6498½	Unilever (NV)	7580	+ 25	2.9	14.8
360	293½	Utd Biscuits	339	- 1	5.6	27.7
49	33	West Trust	36		8.8	24.9
133	98	Yorkshire Food	96	- 1	4.3	11.3

HEALTHCARE

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
544	280	AAH†	296	+ 8	7.6	18.4
1141	770	Amersham	775	- 20	2.6	16.2
81	43	Axagen	47			
297½	200	Assoc Nursg†	202		1.4	11.8
393	243	Bespak†	295		4.3	15.1
18	5	Care UK	7			
115	60	Celsis	72			
47	35	Cortecs	35	- 1		
287	220½	Community H	224		4.4	12.9
44	29	CastleCare	34		2.8	
146	96	Endomed†	102		2.0	13.0
110	82	Fenzels Group	85		3.3	11.8
171	134	Goldsborough†	154		2.7	13.8
15½	8½	Grampara	9½		4.4	12.9
513	402	Health Inc	498		1.3	23.2
165	39	Intercare Gpt	48		9.1	8.5
325	278	Isotron	270		2.2	15.9
171	107	Life Sciences	136	+ 1	3.8	13.5
152½	74	Lon Intl	94			
80	42	Neston-BMA	47		8.4	11.6
3	1½	Premier Health	1½			
330	227	Quality Care†	242	- 3	2.3	
216	118	Scholl	125	+ 1	6.4	12.0
363	275½	Seton Health	337	+ 1	2.5	17.2
83	44	Shield Diag	52			
166	136½	Smith & Neph	165		3.8	18.3
21	6	Specialeyes	8			
292	192	Takare	195	- 4	1.3	17.0
313	245	UniChem	251½	+ 2½	3.4	13.5
400	294	West Hlthcare	336	- 2	1.7	19.1

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312	201	Airsprung	203		3.0	13.1
193	115	BLP Group	125		1.0	34.3
39	26	Bilston Batsea	33			
167	91	Crowll Plc 'A'	92		7.7	20.6
285	163	Creighton Nir	163	- 1	5.9	11.5
165	133	Denby Groupt	145		2.7	15.8
168	113	Gaskell	135		3.9	
14	4½	Lovelant	4½		5.3	
231	163	Maybom	163		4.5	10.8
335	245	Ontiame Intl	245		5.4	11.1
438	230	Osborne & Lde	386		2.4	11.7
625	420	Paterson Zch	421		4.1	12.2
585	380	Paterson Zch 'A'	383		4.5	11.1
714½	528	Reckitt Coln	639	+ 2	3.5	16.2
291	211	Relyon	261	+ 1	2.6	47.6
370	188	Silentnight	191		5.2	12.0
46	27½	Stoddard	31½		6.3	11.9
330	265	Toothbrush†	207		6.9	
180	125	Victoria Carpet	125		4.5	7.1
110½	94½	Walker Greenbk	103		4.4	18.9
63	44	Wicked Wdgwd	59			46.0
155	155	Wood (Arthur)	155		2.4	31.2

INSURANCE

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1493½	937½	Alex & Alex	1381½	+ 50	4.8	
2043½	1587½	Am Gen	1975	- 18½	4.0	
112	81	Angerstein	81	- 1	3.1	66.1
86	42	Archer†	61		2.0	
165	85	Bradstock	98		7.6	10.6
550	370	Britannic	420		3.9	
117	87	CLM Insce†	88		2.9	
701½	473	Com Union	500	+ 2	6.3	18.9
108	86	Duffant	90		2.1	
1950	1650	Dun & Gen	1655		2.1	17.7
64	31	FAI	33		1.5	
221½	145	FBD IE	172	+ ½	4.0	8.0
194	140	Fenchurch Tap	155	+ 2	6.5	10.3
114	89	Finsbury Under	91½		1.8	59.0
757	491	Gen Accident	526	+ 7	6.6	8.5
247	160½	GRE	176	- 1	5.5	19.7
105	80	HCG Lloyds	86		1.9	72.5
457	211	Heath C E	235		8.5	
245½	177½	Hibernian IE	194	+ ½	5.0	7.5
114	86	Hiscox Select	103		1.8	
323	238½	Independent	269		4.1	7.3
241	178	Irish Life	186	+ 1	6.3	17.4
203	118	JIB Group	120		7.8	11.0
103	180	Kiln Capital	101		5.0	
547	407	Legal & Gen	445	- 3	5.8	17.7
1568½	965½	Liberty Life	1400	+ 3½	7.5	5.3
119	91	London Ins Mkt	97		2.6	33.8
310	145	Lloyd Thomp	148		6.6	9.8
471	313	Lloyds Abbey	356	- 8	7.1	11.5
233	158	Lombard Ins	232		4.1	32.2
443	282	London & Man	320		6.3	15.9
119	91	London Ins Mkt	97		2.6	33.8
236	146	Londres Lnb	160	+ 12	6.1	9.9
5883½	4531½	Marsh McInl	5256½	+ 6½	3.6	
110	87	Masthead†				
188	147	Nelson Hurst	174		4.9	17.4
106	76	New London Capt	79		7.6	
129½	100	Orion	104		6.0	
99	68	Premium Trust	70	+ ½	3.6	
124	101	Premiere Under	102			
385	271	Prudential	305		5.6	13.2
83	19	PWS†	19	- 1	3.9	
404	239	Refuge	270		5.4	19.9
350	232½	Royal	278	+ 1	4.0	5.8
222	139	Sedgwick	152	+ 2	4.9	17.2
155	104	Steel Burrill	118		9.5	
87	47	Stirge Hldgs†	49		7.7	
418	281	Sun Alliance	302	- 1	6.2	8.4
107	60	Syndicate Cap	61		1.9	64.6
98	51	Trade Indemnity	67		1.7	14.9
464	302	Transatlantic	315		4.8	28.2
673	432	Utd Friendly	503		4.2	25.8
245	129	Willis Corroon	140		5.9	16.5
28	30	Windsor	31		3.0	7.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
354	280	3i	354	+ ½	2.6	
106½	63	Abtrust Emerg	70	- 1	0.4	
102	76½	Abtrust High Inc	76½	- ½	9.2	
230	182	Abtrust N Dawn	192	- 1	0.6	
2058	1678	Alliance	1760	+ 1	3.4	
293	239	American Trust	264	- 2	2.6	
479	393	Anglo & O'seas	408	- 2	2.2	

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MEDIA

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
365	270	Abbott Mead	338		2.2	30.6
356	198	Adscene	305		2.9	18.9
33	17½	Aegis Gp	26	- ½		
11½	2½	Allied Radio	3½			
26	13	BBB Design	13			35.9
235	155	Barbour Index	185		5.9	16.3
17½	5½	Boldale	5½			
345	320	Black (A&C)	320		5.3	11.5
402	178	Blenheim Gp	214	+ 6	6.0	8.0
205	133	Boxer IVI	203		2.6	17.8
413	353	Bristol	353	- 1	4.4	35.9
290	245	B Sky B	270	+ 2		50.8

LEISURE & HOTELS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
40	26	Abrdn Sth H	34			
578½	416	Airtours†	435	+ 1	3.4	10.8
46½	17	Ald Leis	21			
177	135	Alpha Airpts	146	+ 2	3.5	
48	36	Arcadian	39			
131	85	Baldwin	115		3.8	18.8
333	220	Barr & W 'A'	222		5.6	9.2
250	139½	Bluebird Toys	234		3.2	6.9
365	231	Boosey Hwks	335		1.9	19.8
7½	2½	Brent Walker	3			
200	100	Bristol Scotts	183		2.0	
7½	1½	Buckingham Int	2½			
256	114	Chrysalis	255			
94	74	City Centre Rest	76½	- ½	2.9	15.5
374	305	Compass Gpt	324		2.6	16.9
290	232	Eurocamp	250		5.4	15.0
213	78	Euro Disney	135½	- 8½		
4	2	Euro Leisure	2½			
455	388	Fairlines Boatst	433	- 2	4.5	20.0
131	81	First Choice	83		4.1	
359	245	First Leisure	283	+ 3	3.2	17.7
213	209½	Forte	243½	- ½	3.9	28.8
207	180	Friendly Hotels	188		4.5	26.8
79	49	GR Hldgs	56		2.5	
588	475	Granada†	585	+ 1	2.5	15.8
96	34	Hi-Tec Sports	35		9.9	5.1
216	113	Hornby	113		10.0	9.9
174	142½	Jarvis Hotel	174	+ ½	3.9	15.7
18½	11½	Kunick†	17½		3.6	20.1
289	208	London Clubs	279		5.3	14.2
217½	145	Ladbroke	174½	+ 5½	2.5	30.8
104	52	Magnolia	52		0.2	
140½	107½	Mani Utd	123		4.3	2.0
109½	64½	Mandarin Orntl	83½	- 1½	4.0	21.0
15	11½	My Kinda Town	12½			
81	34	Northern	76		4.9	12.6
102	65½	Pelican Gp†	80		2.0	16.7
141	109	PizzaExpress	127		2.0	19.5
183	97	Pharm Leisure†	97		5.4	6.9
43	21	Quadrant Grp	29			
278	205	Rank Org	235		2.4	
447½	355½	Rank Org	386	+ 4	4.4	19.3
31½	18½	Ryan Hotels IE	31		4.2	17.7
1135	790	Savoy Hotel 'A'	920		0.5	
92	60½	Stakis	79		2.5	
358	296½	Stanley Leisure†	358	+ 1	1.9	19.6
345½	280	Tottenham	280		0.7	15.7
1165	958	Thorn EMI†	1038	+ 1	4.2	18.9
167	75	Tottenham Hot	166		0.8	44.5
178	129	VCI	176	+ 1	1.5	15.7
149	112	Vardon	136		1.1	24.1
18	5	Wembley	5½			
149	107	Zetters Gp†	117	+ 4	10.1	9.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (continued)

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
219	172	Bankers†	180	- 2	2.7	
75½	34½	Baring Em Eu	34½	- 2½	0.4	
381	307	Baring Tribne	315		2.6	
248	198	Berry Starq	222		1.2	
91½	85	Br Assets	87½	- ½	6.2	
98	85	Br Empire Sec	87½	- ½	1.4	
46	25	Br Empire Wts	29			
234	188	Br Inv	197		3.1	
185½	63½	Brazilian	93½	- 2½	9.3	
272	216	Brunner	220		3.2	
161	117	BZW Conv	131		7.4	
363	310	Candover	353	- 2	4.0	
65	43	Central Euro Grwth	43			
271	144	China & Eastern	152		3.0	
223	180	Cont Assets	185		2.1	
96	76	Danae Inv Wts	76		13.1	
328	268	Derby Cap	305			
173	147	Derby Inct	156		13.5	
100	58	Drayton Blue	58		18.1	
117	84	Drytn Eng Ind	93		1.1	
156	122	Drytn Far East	130	- 2	0.6	
784	613	Dunedin Inc G	638	- 3	5.1	
108	80	Dunedin Japan	85	- 1½		
341	292	Dunedin Smlr	303	- 1	3.7	
80	29	Dunedin Wts	32			
827	708	Dunedin Wrldw	713	- 3	1.7	
122	82½	Edin Dragon	93½	- 1½		
53½	33½	Edinburgh Inca	35	- ½	0.2	
360	281	Edinburgh	294	- 2	3.8	
179	136	EFM Japan	141	- 1		
354	288	Electra Inv	319	- 1	2.8	
220	183	Electric Genl	188		2.2	
201	168	Eng & Caledont	181		2.8	
127	106	English Scot	113			
346	273	European Asset	278	+ 1	2.2	
174	145	Fidelity Euro Val	158		0.2	
103½	70	Fidelity Jap Val	71½	- 2½		
172	146	Finsbury 'A'	154		2.4	
86	65	First Spanish	65½		0.5	
343	267	Fleming Amer†	287	+ 1	0.7	
145	51½	Fleming Chinese	64½	- ½	1.0	
52	22	Fleming Ch Wts	32	+ 1		
267	198	Fleming Claverf	203		3.5	
385	293	Fleming Contl	296	+ 1½	0.9	
219½	134	Fleming Em Mkts	139			
264	190	Fleming Enlp	202		3.0	
458	278½	Fleming F East	302	- 2	0.6	
432	346	Fleming Fledg	346		7.1	
120	89	Fleming Hi Inc	93		6.0	
108	68	Fleming Indon	68½	- ½	1.6	
64	33	Fleming In Wts	36	+ ½		
52½	30½	Fleming Intl	30½	- 1½	14.5	
284	220	Fleming Japan	236	- 3		
347	262	Fleming Merc	270½	- ½	3.1	
94	85	Fleming Nat Res	85			
347½	273	Fleming Overs	284	- 1	1.9	
155½	124	Foreign & Col	133		1.7	
106	93	For & Col Inc Grth	96		1.8	
148	98	Fgn Emg Mkts	103½			
77	64½	Fgn Enterprise	68½		1.1	
261	206	Fgn Eurotst	213	+ 1	0.7	
145	114	Fgn German	122	+ 1	0.5	
374	277	Fgn Pacific	297	- 1	1.1	
144	116	Fgn PEP	123		3.6	
192	156	Fgn Smaller	157½		1.6	
120	90	Fgn US Smlr	97			
29½	21½	Fulcrum Cap	22	- ½		
54	45	Fulcrum Inc	45		24.1	
146	134½	Fulcrum Zero	145½	- ½		
213	188	Gartmore Brit	191		4.8	
151	124	Gartmore Euro	131	+ 1	0.9	
130	85	Gartmore Shad	86		14.4	
247	201	G'more Smlr Cos	213		3.4	
128	94	Genrd Inc Invt	97		10.7	
200	138	Genl Cons Cap	140			
115½	104	Genl Inc	104	- 1	10.5	
106	85	German Inv	92		0.1	
325	192	Gov Asian Sm Co's	212	- 1	0.2	
151	90½	Gov Emg Mts	100		0.3	
191	135	Govett Am Smlr	138	- 1		
96½	77½	Gov Glob Smlr	78			
112	78	Govett High Inc	80	- ½	8.8	
429	332	Govett Oriental	348	- 2	0.4	
346	228	Govett Strategic	229	- 2	3.7	
475	387	Greenfriar	387		2.2	
19	6	Gresham House	19			
303	208	GT Japant	213½	- 2½	0.7	
155	117	H Govett Smlr Co	117½	- ½	7.1	
138	113	Hend High	119		5.9	
293	257	Hend Strata	264		0.2	
105	86	Hend Int	86	- 1		
116	98½	HTR Jap Smaller	93	- 2	0.6	
27	13	I&S Eril	15			
119	94	I&S UK Smlr	95	- 3	3.7	
129	123	Inv Capt	123		5.3	
99	66	Ist Biotech	68			
58	28	Ist Wts	28			
177	126	INVESCO Korea	133			
122	89½	J Fry 2nd U	92		8.7	
180	90	J Fry Euro U	91	- ½	8.6	
255	187	JF Fledg Jap	185	- 1		
121	101	Jupiter Intl Grn	101		4.2	
243	194	Kleint Chl	200	- ½	3.3	
149	99	Kleint E Mkt	102			
124	105	Kleint Edl	115			
88½	73	Kleint Euro Prvt	78	+ ½	1.3	
49	22½	Kleint Euro Wts	28	+ ½		
116	79	Kleint H Inc	84		12.2	
272½	215	Kleint O'seas	227		1.9	
165	120	Kleint Smlr	120		3.2	
201	95½	Latin American	108½	- 2½		
826	672	Law Debenture	728	+ 1	3.3	
128	93	Lazard H Inc	97		8.2	
97	79	Lloyds Sm Cap	88			
35	28	Lloyds Sm Dw	29		15.3	
129	107	Lloyds Sm Ptg	109		4.1	
174	141	Lon St Lawrence	162		4.8	
108	78½	Lon Smaller Co's	81		4.9	
334	265	Lowland	280		4.0	
1440½	887½	Lydenburg	1250		1.9	
620	495	M&G 2nd Dual Cap	520	- 3		
151	115	M&G 2nd Dual In	119		25.2	
2773	2440	M&G Dual Cap	2578	- 2		
353	243	M&G Dual Inct	245			
77	54	M&G Inc Geared	65½		9.4	
34½	26½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cap	29½			
45	35½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	36½		16.8	
137	117	M&G Inc Package	121		5.1	
59	50	M&G Inc Zero Dw	56½			
36½	27½	M&G Rec Cap	29½			
72½	57	M&G Rec Geared	57½		8.4	
37½	22	M&G Rec Inc	23		16.7	
151	128	M&G Rec Package	130		3.7	
80½	72½	M&G Rec Zero Dw	74			
128	99	M Curne Euro	104		0.3	
180	119	M Curne Pac	129		0.3	
227	190	Majedie	191		3.4	
57	44	Marolain	57			
324	237	Merchants	254½	- 3	5.5	
90	79½	Mercury Euro Pv	84		0.9	
45	25½	Mercury Eur Wt	28½			
125	86	Mercury World	86½	- 2½		
52½	23	Mercury Wld Wts	23	- 1		
595	482	Monks Inv Tst	512	- 2	1.7	
158	126	Morg Gren Inc	133		4.5	
64	38	Morg Wts	44			
111	60	Morg Latin Amer	67½			
65	33	Morg Wts	34	- 1½		
148	104	Murray Ent	114		2.3	
92	78	Murray Eng Eco	82			
69	54	Murray Euro	56½		0.6	
393	308	Murray Income	319		4.6	
395	296	Murray Intl	312		5.0	
164½	153	Murray S/C DP	163			
174	128	Murray S/C Cap	130			
97	71	Murray S/C Inct	77	- 1	17.2	
3400	2950	Murray S/C Ulsr	3000		4.4	
548	390	Murray Small	395	- 1	1.4	
363	302½	Murray Vent	335	+ 1	4.4	
58	15	Murray Ent Wts	27			
23½	15	Murray Eu Wts	15			
58	15	Newmarket	15			
95	54	NatWest Inct	54		9.8	
104	61	NatWest Cap	62			
404	316	O'seas Inv Tst	329		1.3	
241	179	O'seas Wts	184			
640½	362	Pacific Assets	440	- 8	0.3	
542	268	Pacific Wts	343	- 8		
170	85	Perpetual Jap	85½	- 1½		
9400	7500	Personal Assets	8700		2.8	
153	121	Pilot Inv	121		1.6	
96	84	Paper Euro Sm	85			
93	88	Pigafit Inc	91			
189	164½	RIT Cap Ptnr	170	+ ½	1.1	
38	26½	River Merc Am Cap	28			
121	100	River Merc Am Inc	100		9.8	
17	9	River Merc Am Wts	9½			
150	114	River Merc Cap	119			
147	85	River Merc Ex Inct	91	- 2	10.7	
49	13	River Merc Ex Incl	16			
116	91	River Merc Grd Inc	91		11.6	
35	23	River Merc Grd Pd	26½			
127	109	River Merc Tst Inc	109		10.6	
40	21	River Merc Wt	21½			
170	118	Raven Merc Sm Co	120		4.3	
77	31	River Merc Sm Wt	35			
449	294	Robeco	394		3.2	
403	398	Rolinco	398		2.0	
93	72½	Schrod Jap Grth	78	- 2		
52	26	Schrod Jap Grth Wt	32½	- 1½		
1112½	761½	Schrod Korea FC	782½	+ 2½	0.2	
650½	375½	Sch Korea Fc Wt	386½	+ 1		
113½	102	Sch Spl Zero Div	113½	- ½		
37	27½	Sch Spl Fd Cap	29			
129	108	Sch Spl Fd Inc	113		8.2	
99	86	Schrod UK Grth	90		2.1	
42	23	Schrod UK Grth Wt	31			
262½	200	Scott	201½	- ½	3.1	
183	149	Scot American	153	- ½	4.1	
368	215	Scot Asian	232	- 1		
1870	555	Scot Inv	555			
97½	74½	Scot Eastern	77½		2.5	
264½	205	Scot Mtge	212½		2.4	
106½	89½	Scot Natl Tst	89½	- ½	10.9	
133½	101	Scot Value	107½		2.5	
1795	1475	Second Allnce	1551	- 4	3.4	
106	76	Secs Tst of Scot	81		5.0	
179	134	Selective Asset	135		1.5	
161	127	SHIRESCOT	127		5.2	
51½	33½	Sphere Inct	37½	- ½	14.4	
343	290	St Andrew Inv	299		3.5	
412	310	Temple Bar	335	- 2	5.1	
135	90	Thmtn Asian E	100	- 1	0.6	
568	453	Throg Dual Cp	453			
101	69	Throgmorton	71	- ½	4.0	
164½	98	Eplon Emg Mkt	107	- ½	0.8	
177½	133½	TR City Of Lont	144	- ½	4.5	
305	127	TR Far East	142	- 1	5.1	
124½	80	TR Pacific	92½	- 1½	0.2	
43½	27½	TR Property	39½		3.8	
228	174	TR Smir Cost	178		2.7	
152	100	TR Tech Inv	101		3.2	
405	188	Torfery Tnct	182		1.4	
263	222	USDC Invest	225		2.5	
129	108½	Value Inc Tst	113		4.6	
109	61	Wigmore	62		1.0	
257½	205	Witan	220	- 1	3.5	
113	95	Yeoman Inc	96		18.0	
757	620	Caledonia	634		3.3	17.3
2650	1900	Camellia	2400		1.7	6.4
22½	17½	Carlisle	18½		1.7	
630½	436	Cater Allen	443		8.0	9.1
174½	125	Caides	148		4.4	16.6
85	33	Christie	33			72.9
16	12	EFG	15		0.8	9.8
71½	45½	EFT Group	64		3.4	13.5
740	513	ERM	723		4.1	21.7
212	158	Exco	180	+ 1	5.9	5.0
229	157	Galbraith	176½	- 1	2.8	20.4
515	395	Gerrard Nat	467	- 1	6.4	13.5
465	325	Govett	349		5.4	5.7
1202	845	Henderson Ad	995		5.7	13.8
251½	151	Invesco	169	+ 1	2.8	22.7
50	37	Investment Co.	45		4.9	14.4
250	185	Ivory Sime	214		4.4	16.7
317	193½	Jardine Strat	238½	- 3½	3.5	9.4
428	103	Johnson Fry	127	+ 6	1.5	4.0
170	96	King Shaxson	97		11.6	9.6
245	133	Lon Forfaitng	138		8.4	8.6
124	95	Lon Scot Brt	119		4.3	
1263	794	M & G†	985		3.8	17.2
323	218	MAI	238		4.1	12.9
117½	85½	MAI 5.5% Cv Pf	94½			
807	538	MAM	764	- 10	3.8	17.8
29½	8½	Mal Home Loan	10½	- ½		1.0
1218	973	Perpetual	1238		3.5	13.4
573	415	Provident	534	+ 5	4.2	17.0
365	245	Rathbone Brs	278	- 2	3.8	13.8
29	21½	Rutland Tst	25		4.5	12.7
369	281½	S & U	292		4.7	8.5
425	155	Sharelink	158		7.2	5.8
188	106	SJP Capital	107½	- 1	3.5	7.6
496	324	Smith New Crt	427½	- ½	2.9	4.9
604	305½	Smith Pacific 'A'	389	- 4	2.4	17.1
224	76	Yoany Lon	77		7.3	6.6
66	23	Ino Hldgs▼	24		0.5	38.4
199	87	Union	88		6.4	8.1
31	20	Western Select	24		1.3	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
165	75	BWD	76		6.9	8.2
131	96	Baltic Plc	130	- 1	1.9	8.2
185	72	Berry Bch Nbl	72	- 2	8.9	10.9
215	148	Beltec Inv	150			
154	108	Brewin Dolphin	118		6.6	

MINING

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
115	65	Alex Corp	90		4.3	
4625	1762½	Ang Am Coal	3550		2.5	20.0
3796½	2509½	Ang Am	3121½	+ 9½	2.4	28.0
7331½	4593½	Ang Am Gold	5378½	- 81½	5.1	13.9
36	22	Anglo Pac Res	27½	+ ½		
1512½	1196½	Ashanti	1347½	+ 3½	1.2	15.7
166	103	Ashton	109	- 1	4.8	
997	773½	Broken Hill	870	- 15	2.4	18.1
404	179	Zaboschi	180			
481	294½	Beaufort	380½	+ 1	5.2	19.1
39	32	Bicach	32		2.7	27.6
184	83½	Blyvoors	82	- 6½		
64	27	Bougainville	28	+ 1		
37	12½	Bracken	14½		6.1	
898	353½	Buffels	442½	- 6½	12.5	
5	2	Bula	2			
968	745½	CRA	806	- 3	2.7	24.9
77	42	Central Pacific	47			
55½	36	Cluff Res	46½			
134	28½	Coal Inv	81			
300	65	Cons Murchison	201		3.2	5.3
1750	1262½	De Beers	1356½	+ 12½	4.0	14.1
143	68	Deelkraal	69½	- 6½	5.2	6.8
101½	30½	Doornfontein	52½	+ ½		
1036½	665½	Driefontein	807	- 13½	5.9	10.6
841½	527½	Durban	611½	- 14½		
289½	107	E Rand Gold	130½	- 8	15.9	4.2
122½	39½	E Rand Prop	68½	+ ½		
75	45	Eastern Trans	45		5.2	10.6
513	300½	Elandsrand†	322	+ 1	3.7	
447½	320	Eng China Cl	366	+ 2	5.5	17.6
1239	719	FS Cons	875½	- 34	7.7	9.3
82	27	FS Dev	62		2.0	
2081½	1193½	GFSA†	1606½		3.2	17.3
80½	42	GM Kalgoorli	42	- 1	3.4	15.4
239½	108½	Gencor	206	- 2½	1.3	25.3
152	75	Gold Fields Prop	144		7.6	
22	12½	Greenwich R 'A'	12½	- ½		
202	105½	Grootvlei†	130½	- 6	6.9	7.2
85½	67	Geolic Cons	81½		1.2	9.8
680½	319½	Harmony	526½	- 20½		
430	213	Hartles	246	- 3½	11.0	7.6
1593½	831½	Impala Plat	1256½	- 12½	2.0	39.3
230	108	Kinross	108	- 5	12.0	9.0
1315½	796½	Kloof	796½	- 12½	8.6	7.7
1094½	568½	Kloof†	672½	- 14½	5.5	6.0
137	68½	Leslie†	86½	- 3	11.3	5.6
368½	178½	Loraine	248½	+ 1		
20	17	Marievale	17	- 1		
3	2	Messina	2			
362	91	MIM	91	- 1	2.6	
1782½	1259	Minorco	1400		2.6	
324	157	Monarch	159			
58	18	NSM	18			9.2
289½	140	Nth Kalg Hill	142	- 3	3.7	20.7
94	45	Oryx Gold	50			
186	85	Peko Wallsend	88			
483	183	Potgieter Tin	225	- 10	0.6	
188	122½	Placer Pac	130	- 7		
425	237	RJB	323		4.7	15.6
985	748	RTZ	755	- 7	3.4	21.5
49	31	Redwood	31			
675	187½	Rand Mines	575		2.8	50.3
849½	419	Randfontein	458½	- 2½	10.9	5.8
295	282	Renison	282	- 4		
1809½	1078½	Rustenburg	1449½	+ 3½	2.1	33.3
112	82	St Barbara	82	- 2	2.3	15.4
756	436	St Helena†	507	- 2	2.5	
288	195	Sons Gwalia	215	- 5	5.6	13.8
38	16	Sthern Pacific	20			
2687½	1409½	Southvaal†	1584½	- 12½	5.2	
143	73	Stilfontein†	109½	+ ½	3.2	
289½	98	Unisel†	135½	- 6½	7.4	6.2
7698	4509½	Vaal Reefs†	4587½	- 50	4.9	
23	7½	Waikio Cd Z	11		11.3	2.6
1	½	Water Hall				
545	458	Wasp Blaie	520		3.0	19.6
1213½	599½	Western Areas	837½	- 13½	1.9	34.2
3575	1831½	Western Deept	2043½	- 16½	4.4	
398	308½	Western Mng	311	- 3	1.2	47.7
1225	683½	Winkelst	653½	- 6½	7.8	8.6
66	42	Zambia Copper	42			
68	45	Zandpan	45		10.0	10.0

OIL & GAS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
45	20½	Aran Energy	43½	+ ½		26.5
53	35	Arcon Intl	47	- 4		
74½	51½	Aus Oil & Gas	51½			
88	43	Awog Pet	47	- 1		
249	197	Br Borneo	231		3.8	10.8
358	253	British Gas	309		5.9	
437½	349	Br Petroleum	419½	+ ½	2.9	23.0
4	1½	Bula Resources	2½			
919	783	Burmah Castrl	835		4.1	16.6
88	56	Cairn Energy	81	+ 2		44.6
375	258	Calor Gp	264		5.9	12.7
51	33	Clyde Pet	38	- 1	1.2	
30	8½	Copler Res	9	- ½		
2½	1½	Dragon Oil	2			
27½	17	Edin Oil & Gs	21			22.7
488	370	Enterprise	407		4.9	
27	8	Fieldwest Intl	8		15.2	3.3
303	240	Flogas	240		6.7	9.9
8½	4½	Fortune	5½			35.1
77	54	Goal Pet	68		2.7	22.6
47	31	Gt Western Res	38			
177	129	Hardy O & G	139		1.8	16.5
55	40	Kelt Energy	54		3.1	21.7
169	110½	Lasmo	157	+ 1	0.8	
73	48	Lasmo Units	50		18.6	
75	55	Monument	63½			67.6
7½	3½	New London	5½	+ ½		
2562½	1912½	Norsk Hydro	2512½	- 9½	1.3	15.9
9½	3½	Oceonics	4½			
50	36	Oil Search	41	- 1		
50½	17½	Petroz	32½	+ 2½		
194	140	Pict Pet	184			
32½	21	Premier	23½	- ½		12.8
158	43	Presidio	65		15.5	
111	79	Pittencrieff Rs	79			
315	129	Ramco Egy	315	+ 6	0.2	
463	325	Ranger	380		5.4	
7700	6681½	Royal Dtch Pl	7193½	+ 28½	4.6	18.3
4084½	3221½	Schlumberger	3525	+ 9½	2.2	
68	43	Scott Pickford	49		2.3	9.4
90	50	Seafield	85			
758	651	Shell	720½	+ 1½	4.3	21.8
187	116	Sunrise Eng Sv	#116			
4237½	3431½	Total	3568½	+ 21½	2.6	17.8
19	8½	Vikers Grp	8½	- ½		
245	178½	Woodside	232	- 2	1.7	
110	38	XCL	43			

PHARMACEUTICALS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615	317½	Brit Biotech	570	+ 6		
458	298	Cantab Pharms	298			
256	191	Celltech	256	+ 6		
151	88	Chiroscience	114	+ 1		
47	35	Cortecs	35	- 1		
157	103	Ferraris	103		3.1	
725	520	Glaxo	654	+ 5	5.4	15.5
185	95½	Grampian Hldg	109	+ 1	6.3	20.1
187	120	Medeva	175	- ½	2.1	14.1
3	1½	Premier Health	1½			
330	227	Quality Care†	242	- 3	2.3	
337	242	Scotia	332	+ 5		
83	44	Shield Diag	52			
490½	357½	SmithKline	490	+ 7	3.1	19.1
470½	322	SmithKline Ute	468	+ 13½	3.3	18.2
1027	499	Wellcome	1020	+ 9	2.8	22.8
934	672	Zeneca	895	+ 3	3.9	18.0

PRINTING & PAPER

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
184	122	AG Holdings	126		5.5	11.9
444	335	APrt	397	- 2	2.9	18.9
316	222	Arjo Wiggins	230	+ 1	3.5	34.7
205	145	Aspen Comm	166		3.8	18.9
472	347	Bemrose	363		4.3	13.0
524	387	Bowater	388	- 8	4.2	14.6
1912½	1378½	Bowater Inc	1859½	+ 37½		
297	242	Bowthorpe Intl	272	+ 1	1.9	16.6
515	435	Br Polyhene	489	+ 2	3.1	17.2
176	28	Br Thornton	38	- 2	20.1	2.5
180½	112	Brixton Grp	119	+ 1	2.6	17.5
186	158	Bunzl	164	- 2	3.1	19.3
158	129	Capital Inds	140	- 2	4.0	11.6
2446½	1890½	Carnaud Mt	2212½	- 3½	2.2	16.9
439	279	Cooper (James)	279		1.5	14.7
1040	825	De La Rue	1033	+ 1	2.5	18.8
134	64	Delyn Group	65		3.2	11.8
137	101	Dolphin Pack	101		5.6	13.0
191	75	Fairway Group	88		4.9	16.4
430	295	Ferguson Intl	306		5.2	12.3
145	110	Ferry Pick	110		6.5	
30	1½	Haderprint	1½			
230	150	Isvepesk	158		4.8	9.5
395	248	Jones Porter	292	- 2	2.3	19.0
438	364	Low & Bonar	383		3.4	15.3
69	44½	MY Holdings	52		3.8	12.4
271	223	Macfarlane	233	- 3	2.2	18.8
250	148	Plysu	180		4.9	29.4
1089	513	Portals	1082	+ 1	1.9	29.4
412	314	St Ives Gp	338½	- ½	2.4	18.2
1153½	464½	Sappi	1070½	- 29	0.5	
30½	7½	Senl				
351½	146	Sidlaw	146	- 5	9.4	
573	398	Smith David†	517	+ 2	3.0	15.7
420½	274½	Smurfit (Jeff)	397		1.4	56.6
119	82	Somact	99		3.5	19.6
30	18½	Unit Group	31			
270	182	Waco	228	- 1	2.2	14.4
291	199	Waddington (J)	199		5.4	9.7
511	351	Warmough	356	+ 4	2.4	22.5
149	98	Wyndeham	137		2.6	17.5

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
883	507	Allied Domecq†	514	- 1	5.6	13.9
459	358	Bulmer (HP)†	384		3.5	21.3
140	105	Burn Stewart	117	- 2	5.3	25.7
595	352	Grand Metr	377	- 4	4.6	17.0
542	409½	Guinness	427	- 1	3.8	14.1
457	353	Highland Dist	380	+ 3	2.3	17.8
232	127	Macallan-Glen	209		0.7	54.8
710	365	Macdo Mrtn 'A'	690		1.8	29.7
614	515	Matthew Clark†	540	- 4	4.3	24.8
250	61	Maydew W	84		3.7	
150	142	Taunton Cider†	146	- 1	5.8	11.3

SUPPORT SERVICES

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
187	73	ACI Group	78		8.4	8.2
743	583	ADT	650			
46	34	Alphameric	40			30.5
140	59	Auto Sec	72			9.3
162	99	BET Ord	104	- ½	4.1	14.9
195	115	BNB Res	180		4.0	18.7
255	175	BPP	225		4.9	18.1
186	130	BSM	165		4.9	14.8
3½	½	Black & Edg	3			
1100	500	Borland	562½			
226	159	Bril Data Mgt	190	+ 1	3.6	13.4
79	57	Brooks Service	65	+ 2	3.4	
117½	77	CRT Gp	77	- 1	5.5	18.7
238	150	Capita Group	157	- 1	2.2	20.0
423	277½	Chubb Sect	307		2.7	17.9
243	105	Comp People	230	- 2	1.4	52.4
68	41	Corp Services	67		0.5	25.2
97	48	Crafts Credit	53		0.9	
276	212	Davis Service	229		4.4	15.4
88	68	Dudley Jenkins	72		5.8	13.4
154	78	EW Fact	80		7.7	6.0
198½	135	El Data Pic	138		1.8	13.4
334	281	Hays	290	- 1	2.6	19.8
289	173	Hogg Robnsn	173	- 2	5.3	11.1
39	18	Holmes Protectn	27			1.6
15	8	Int Cm & Data	11½			5.8
2698½	1598½	ISS B DKr	1983½	+ 9½	5.6	2.0
168	126	JBA Hldgs	167		1.8	17.0
414	227	Johnson Clean	232	+ 1	5.8	9.4
145	99	Kalamazoo	110		3.9	12.4
298	221	Kewill Syst	261	+ 1	3.5	9.6
35	17	Laser-Scan	19			
143½	68	LBMS	80	+ 3		
8	4	Lep	4½			
350	266	Lepics	318	+ 3	2.0	22.4
264	65½	MDIS	72		10.9	5.0
265	143	MMT Comp	186		3.3	15.7
216	102	MR Data Mngt	117		5.9	17.1
723	413	Macro 4	413	- 2	6.1	11.6
1885½	1156½	Manpower	1749½	+ 12½	0.2	
1320	780	Micro Focus	800	- 13		9.7
178	101	Microgen	112	- 5	8.5	
548½	408	Misys†	411		2.6	12.9
205	141½	MITIE Gpt	203	+ 1	1.6	20.6
39	22	Nwo Groupt	36		1.0	10.0
82	35	OIS Intl	39		8.9	4.5
31	19	Orbis	24		3.6	
85	60	P & P	83	+ 2	4.0	
119	65	Michael Page	119	+ 3	2.4	29.2
143	90	Parity	115		2.4	35.8
235	150	Pegasus	152		4.1	15.3
115	82	Penna	95		5.3	
89½	60½	Proudfoot	67		6.5	11.5
415	275	RCO	275		7.6	9.6
48	27	Radius	36		1.2	
183	73	Real Time	173		2.9	13.1
173	104	Reed Executive	143		0.9	
166	105	Reliance Sect	142		4.4	21.6
279	199½	Rentokil	223		1.7	23.0
194	135	Ricardo Group	138	+ 2	5.4	16.8
215	147½	Rolfe & Nolan	184		2.7	39.3
692	507	Sage Gpt	692	+ 3	2.0	15.1
292	243	Serviseek (C)	264	+ 1	3.9	13.6
94	78	Sanderson Elec	84	- 1	4.2	12.2
17½	9	Select App	13			
438	310	Serco Gp	399		1.1	24.1
353	243	Serco Gp	278	- 1	1.6	25.3
169	136	Servicair	168		2.8	27.3
130	75	Shandl Corp	100			
153	99	Stelchley	91		4.4	15.3
254	187	Stal-Plus	167		6.8	15.8
145	100	Unipalm	123	- 2		
31	12½	Vistec	14½		3.4	7.9
65	37	WSP Hldgs	44		5.4	25.8
338	260	Warner Howard	262		3.7	12.1

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
486	353½	BT†	396	- 8½	5.4	14.1
532	350½	Cable Wireless†	394	- 2	2.7	16.2
206	108	Filtronic Com	194		0.5	40.1
1543	1148	Securicor	1485		0.3	33.8
1069	785	Securicor 'A'	918	- 1	0.5	20.9
892	606	Security Serv	755	- 1	1.1	20.9
221	157½	Vodafone†	192½	- 5½	2.0	24.9

WATER

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
607	442	Anglian†	471	+ 4	6.2	10.6
365	293	Mid Kent Hldgs	330		4.5	11.1
611	454	North West†	488	+ 2	5.9	7.2
751	508	Northumbrian†	682	+ 1	4.6	7.4
645	457	Severn Trent†	488	+ 2	5.9	8.3
1885	1526	South Staffs	1885		3.6	11.4
675	459	South West†	479	+ 3	6.8	7.1
682	466	Southern†	529	+ 7	5.6	7.6
611	434½	Thames†	470	+ 4	6.2	7.1
744	546	Welsh†	592	+ 1	5.5	6.5
379½	261	Wessex†	287	- 2	5.7	7.0
630	458	Yorkshire†	486	+ 5	8.0	7.1

BRITISH FUNDS

LONGS (over 15 years)

1994/95 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
98⅞	77⅜	Treas 6¼% 2010	81⅞	- ⅛	7.65	8.35
120	100	Conv 9% 2011	104⅝	- ⅛	8.58	8.44
127⅛	100⅛	Treas 9% 2012	105⅛	- ⅛	8.56	8.43
93⅞	71⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	75⅛		7.32	8.20
117⅞	92	Treas 8% 2013	96⅛	- ⅛	8.30	8.38
114⅛	88⅛	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	93⅛	- ⅛	8.25	8.39
128⅛	99⅛	Treas 8¾% 2017	103⅞	- ⅛	8.42	8.36
159½	126⅛	Exch 12% 2013-17	131½	- ⅛	9.13	8.59

© USM. # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 9 1995

When a document can speak for itself

Regina v Foxley

Before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Curtis and Mr Justice Stuart White

[Judgment February 6]

The purpose of section 24 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 was to enable a document to speak for itself. Parliament's intention would be defeated if oral evidence was to be required in every case from a person who was either the creator or keeper of the document, or the supplier of the information contained in the document.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Gordon Foxley against his conviction on November 3, 1993 at Snaresbrook Crown Court (Judge Brooks and a jury) of 12 counts of corruption. His appeal against a confiscation order made on May 26, 1994 in the sum of £1,503,901.80 was also dismissed. An application for leave to appeal against a sentence of four years imprisonment was refused.

Section 24 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) . . . a statement in a document shall be admissible in criminal proceedings as evidence of any fact of which direct oral evidence would be admissible, if the following conditions are satisfied — (i) the document was created or received by a person in the course of a trade, business, profession or other occupation or as the holder of a paid or unpaid office; and (ii) the information contained in the document was supplied by a person (whether or not the maker of the statement) who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with."

Mr Roy Amlot, QC and Mr Christopher Sallon, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Victor Temple, QC and Mr Warwick McKinnon for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, giving the judgment of the court, said that it was the prosecution case that certain ordnance contracts were placed with three overseas companies while the appellant was employed by the Ministry of Defence and when he was in a position to influence the placing of those contracts.

Sums of money were paid by these companies to two intermediate Swiss companies and a firm all of which had numbered accounts in Swiss banks into which the payments were made.

The Crown maintained that those were corrupt payments, that is, payments made as an inducement or reward for the appellant showing favour to the companies concerned in relation to the affairs of the Ministry of Defence.

Under section 24 of the 1988 Act the judge admitted documents purporting to emanate from the three companies abroad and evidencing payments into the Swiss bank accounts, although the only evidence relating to those documents came from the investigating officer who received them in this country following letters of request to the foreign countries in question.

It was submitted on the appellant's behalf that the conditions required by section 24 had not been satisfied.

The wording of section 24(1)(ii) demonstrated that Parliament anticipated that courts would draw inferences as to the personal knowledge of the person supplying the information of the matters dealt with. The purpose of section 24 was to enable the document to speak for itself, the safeguard being the two conditions and other statutory provisions applicable.

Parliament's intention would be defeated if oral evidence was to be required in every case from a person who was either the creator or keeper of the document, or the supplier of the information contained in the document.

The documents in this case had been produced by the appropriate authorities in Italy, Germany and Norway, responding to letters requesting assistance addressed to them by the prosecuting authorities in the UK.

The court was entitled to infer that they had been obtained from the manufacturing companies by the appropriate authorities acting within the law of their respective countries.

Was direct oral evidence required either from the officer of the appropriate authority in the foreign country that he had seized the documents in accordance with the laws of his country or from an officer of the relevant company that those were indeed documents from his company created in the course of business, containing information supplied by a person who had or might reasonably be supposed to have had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with?

In their Lordships' judgment such direct evidence was not essential, although it would often be desirable. The courts might, as Parliament clearly intended, draw inferences from the documents themselves and from the method or route by which the documents had been produced before the court.

In this case the judge could infer that each of the manufacturing companies had an obligation to keep proper records and accounts, and that payments made by the companies would have to be made by documents of which copies would be kept for the purpose of the company's accounts.

The documents effecting those payments were documents created in the course of the company's business. The fact that the payments were corrupt would not prevent the documents for effecting payment (still less copies kept for accounting purposes) being documents created in the course of the company's business.

The information contained in the documents was that money had been paid by means of the original documents to one of the intermediaries. That must have been information within the personal knowledge of the creator of the document.

In their Lordships' judgment the trial judge was entitled to infer that from the documents themselves.

Their Lordships considered other grounds of appeal and concluded that there was no basis for holding that the convictions, based as they were on overwhelming evidence, were either unsafe or unsatisfactory.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, HQ.

Planning consent does not grant market right

Delyn Borough Council v Solitaire (Liverpool) Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Jacob

[Judgment January 26]

The grant by a local authority of planning permission to hold a market creates no positive right in the grantee, capable of being regarded as statutory authority to hold it, or of operating as a defence to an action by that local authority seeking to restrain a successor to the grantee's title from opening or reopening that market within six and two-thirds miles of its own lawful market.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division, in granting to Delyn Borough Council an interlocutory injunction, restraining Solitaire, (Liverpool) Ltd and Mr Alan D'Arcy its manager, from operating a Saturday market at Llanerch-y-Mor, three miles distant from Delyn's market in the centre of Holywell.

Section 50 of the Food Act 1984 provides: "(1) The council of a district may — (a) establish a market within their district. . .

"(2) A market shall not be established in pursuance of this section so as to interfere with any rights, powers or privileges enjoyed within the district by any person, without that person's consent."

Mr Stuart Isaacs, QC and Mr Clive Lewis for Delyn; Mr Augustus Ullstein, QC and Miss Victoria Donenge for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that Delyn had extended their statutory Thursday market, which they had operated since 1977, to Saturdays in July 1994 and into the High Street, in order to support the economic viability of the town centre.

Just two weeks later Solitaire had, according to its own advertising material, opened a Saturday market, consisting of a car boot sale and market stalls, at a site called the "Funship", three miles from Delyn's market in spite of Delyn's complaints that that would infringe their market right.

Delyn's statutory right was based on section 50 of the Food Act 1984. It was common ground that when a council established a market, they created the rights appurtenant to a market, particularly the right to prevent rival markets within the common law distance of six and two-thirds miles.

The defences all stemmed from the grant in 1981, modified in 1983, of planning permission within the Funship site for a continental-style market covering seven days a week, save for a two-month period in the winter, to Solitaire's predecessors in title.

Whether there had been uninterrupted use of that site on Saturdays was in dispute, Solitaire claiming that "opening" in their advertising meant "reopening" and that the grant to its predecessors of planning permission amounted to the establishment of a market under section 50 of the Act prior in time to Delyn's: alternatively, and independently of that section, that such permission gave Solitaire a right to run that market, good against all the world and particularly against a subsequent, conflicting right such as Delyn's.

His Lordship rejected both arguments. The word "right" could be dangerous.

It was legitimate to use it in the sense that a grantee of planning permission had a right to exercise that permission so far as planning law was concerned; it was illegitimate to extend that sense so as to give that grantee any universal, positive right having nothing to do with planning law, or as capable of overriding the rights of others.

Third, Mr Ullstein had contended that planning permission amounted to statutory authority giving immunity from suit but in *Gillingham Borough Council v Medway (Chatham) Dock Co Ltd* ([1993] QB 343, 360D, 361E), all that Mr Justice Buckley had held was that planning permission was relevant in considering the nature of the area relevant to the nuisance claim and it seemed manifest from the result in *Wheeler v Saunders Ltd* (*The Times* January 3, 1995) that Mr Ullstein's "statutory immunity by reason of planning permission" defence was wrong.

Fourth, Mr Ullstein contended that in granting planning permission for the Funship market Delyn had to consider whether the user proposed might become a nuisance by way of infringement of an actual or potential market right: here, it must be taken that the permission was lawful, hence there could now be no nuisance. That, a variety of his statutory authority defence, was bad for the same reasons.

Mr Ullstein had next raised a public law defence, citing *HTV Ltd v Price Commission* ([1976] ICR 170, 185) where Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had said that while a public body, entrusted with powers for the public good, could not be estopped from doing its duty, yet "it must not misuse its powers: and it is a misuse of power for it to act unfairly or unjustly towards a private citizen, when there is no overriding public interest to warrant it."

Mr Ullstein had urged that Delyn, in creating their own Saturday market, had acted unfairly or unjustly towards Solitaire's predecessors and so were estopped from asserting that right against Solitaire.

But, his Lordship said, even apart from factual difficulties, Mr Justice Peter Gibson's observations at first instance in *Stokeon-Trent City Council v W & J Wass Ltd* (unreported, March 4, 1987) unchallenged on appeal ([1988] 87 LGR 129) were against him in addition to *Spurling v Bantoft* ([1891] 2 QB 384, 392) and *Fearn v Mitchell* ((1872) 7 QB 690, 696);

Finally in Solitaire's way was a difficulty of construction. Section 50(2) contained an express limitation, that a market right created under section 50(1) was no to interfere with a prior market right that there was no other qualification on the effect of such creation suggested that Parliament intended no other fetter on the power to create it.

Finally, as to the granting of relief, His Lordship had no doubt that the balance of injustice, as Mr Justice Hoffmann once called it, favoured Delyn and the interlocutory injunction sought would be granted.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Peter Evans, Flint: Clinton.

Retrospectivity restores validity of insurance contracts

Bates and Others v Robert Barrow Ltd and Others
Ansell and Others v Same

Before Mr Justice Gatehouse

[Judgment December 8]

The provisions of section 132 of the Financial Services Act 1986 were retrospective in effect at least to the extent that a person was able to claim for a loss that had arisen after section 123 came into force on January 12, 1987, when he had, before January 12, 1987, entered into an insurance contract with an insurance company that was not permitted to carry on an insurance business in the United Kingdom by warrant of the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Mr Justice Gatehouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers when deciding a preliminary issue and finding in favour of Lloyd's names, Sir Geoffrey Bates and others and Mrs Elizabeth Ansell and others, in their claims under stop-loss cover against Robert Barrow Ltd, R. F. Kershaw Ltd, D. M. Green & Co (Underwriting) Ltd, Gooda & Partners Ltd, David Evers Ltd Underwriting Agents, BPC Members Agency Ltd, Postgate & Denby (Agencies) Ltd and Kansa General Insurance Co Ltd as regarded their section 132 claim but finding against the plaintiff's claim in negligence.

Section 132 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) . . . a contract of insurance . . . which is entered into by a person in the course of carrying on insurance business in contravention of section 2 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 shall be unenforceable against the other party; and that party shall be entitled to recover any money or other property paid or transferred by him under the contract, together with any loss sustained by him as a result of having parted with it."

Mr Michael Crane, QC and Mr Matthew Reeve for the applicants; Mr Dominic Kendrick and Mr David Allen for Robert Barrow Ltd; Mr David Donaldson, QC and Mr Robert Anderson for R. F. Kershaw Ltd, D. M. Green & Co (Underwriting) Ltd, David Evers Ltd Underwriting Agents, BPC Members Agency Ltd; David Railton and Robert Handyside for Kansa; the other parties did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE GATEHOUSE said that in *Bedford Insurance Co Ltd v Instituto de Resseguros do Brasil* ([1985] QB 966) the judge held that as Bedford, a Hong Kong company, were not authorised under the 1982 Act to carry on marine insurance company business in the UK, the original contracts written on their behalf by London brokers were illegal and unenforceable: as a result Bedford were unable to recover under their reinsurance contracts with the defendants.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision in the *Bedford Insurance* case in *Phoenix General Insurance Co of Greece SA v Halvanon Insurance Co Ltd* ([1988] QB 216). The purpose of section 132 of the 1986 Act was to reverse the problems created by the *Bedford Insurance* and *Phoenix* cases.

The presumption against the retrospectivity of a statute which effected substantive rights was a topic dealt with in many reported decisions. In *Yew Bon Tew v Kenderaan Bas Mara* ([1983] 1 AC 553) it was expressed thus:

"Apart from the interpretation of statutes there is at common law a prima facie law of construction that a statute should not be interpreted retrospectively so as to impair an existing right or obligation unless that result is unavoidable on the language used. A statute is retrospective if it takes away or impairs a vested right acquired under existing laws, or creates a new obligation, or imposes a new duty . . . in regard to events already past."

For present purposes the emphasis was on the impairment of a vested right acquired under existing laws, or the creation of a new obligation in respect of events already passed.

The defendants concentrated on what they claimed was a new obligation where none had existed before because the *Bedford Insurance* and *Phoenix* judgments meant that every infringing contract was void *ab initio*.

That seemed to his Lordship to give a curious meaning to the word "obligation" and not one which could have been intended in the authorities. Prior to the *Bedford* decision no one in the insurance market thought that a contract would be unenforceable merely because the insurer was not authorised under section 2(1) of the 1982 Act.

At the time of contracting, every insurer and every insured intended to fulfil its obligations, and enjoy its rights, under the contract. In the present case *Kansa* originally assumed the obligations and continued to honour them long after the *Bedford* and *Phoenix* cases.

To argue that section 132 of the 1986 Act created a new obligation was, in his Lordship's view, not supported by the rationale of the decided cases which, the House of Lords made clear in *The Boucraa* ([1994] 1 Lloyd's 251) was founded on the concept of fairness. His Lordship saw nothing unfair in restoring the parties to the contractual position they had both assumed and long acted upon.

The mischief at which section 132 of the 1986 Act was aimed was clear enough. To the dismay of the market a vast number of contracts were entered into in the belief that they were fully enforceable were suddenly held to be void *ab initio*.

His Lordship was therefore of the opinion that section 132 was retrospective and gave a remedy to claims arising after January 1987, when it came into force even where they arose, as in the present case, from contracts entered into before January 1987.

Solicitors: Richards Butler; Cameron Markby Hewitt; Squire & Co; Stephenson Harwood.

Dealing with contempt of the court

Regina v Bromell

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Mr Justice Pill and Mr Justice Steel

[Judgment January 19]

In dealing with a contemnor accused of attempting to bribe a potential witness in a criminal trial, the judge rightly dealt with the matter as one of urgency with regard to the possible effect on the trial, but he should have given the contemnor the opportunity to be represented before making a finding of contempt against him.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the appeal of Shane Simon Bromell against a finding of contempt of court made at Coventry Crown Court (Judge Cole) on February 9, 1993.

Mr James Gibbs, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Burrows for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the allegation against the appellant was that he had offered £1,000 to a potential witness in a trial in which his brother was a defendant, to persuade him not to give evidence.

The judge heard evidence from witnesses to the alleged contempt and from the appellant. He decided that no prejudice had been caused, that the trial should continue and postponed his finding regarding the appellant until the conclusion of the trial.

When the appellant was brought back before the court the next day he was represented by counsel, but the judge made the finding of contempt having refused to hear counsel except on the question of sentence.

Although the manner in which the judge had investigated the allegation was perfectly proper since he took the view that its possible effect on the trial was a matter of urgency, it had been stressed in *Balogh v St Albans Crown Court* ([1975] QB 73) that it should be the almost invariable practice that a person faced with an allegation of contempt and the prospect of imprisonment should be afforded legal representation if that were practicable.

Although it might not have been possible for the appellant to be represented on the first occasion, the position had changed by the next day, and the finding of contempt should not have been made without his being afforded a full opportunity for legal representation.

The finding of contempt was therefore unsafe and would be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, Coventry.

Success fee terms must be clear

Swiss Bank Corporation v Parry and Others

Before Mr Justice Cresswell

[Judgment February 3]

Banking and other advisers seeking to include provisions for payment of a success fee in their arrangements with clients should explain to the clients what they had in mind and identify in clear terms in any agreement what was required to trigger the liability to pay a success fee.

Mr Justice Cresswell so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment for the defendants, Mr Richard N. Parry and Sir John Quinton, respectively, chief executive and non-executive chairman of the Premier League, in a claim brought by the plaintiff, Swiss Bank Corporation, for payment of a success fee of £1.8 million in relation to negotiating a higher bid for television rights to Premier League football from BSkyB in May 1992.

His Lordship found that while the proper construction of the agreement between the parties in relation to payment of a success fee was as contended for by the plaintiffs in that they were entitled to the success fee if, inter alia, they made a substantial contribution to the negotiation of a higher bid from the television companies, on a careful analysis of the facts they had not made such a substantial contribution.

Mr M. Havelock-Allan, QC and Mr Duncan Matthews for Swiss Bank; Mr A. Hooper, QC and Mr Brian Doctor for the Premier League.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that the clause in the agreement providing for a success fee in certain circumstances had given rise to peculiar difficulties and expensive litigation.

It was common ground that the provision for a success fee, in so far as it related to an increased cash bid, was not discussed between the plaintiffs and the defendants, and was probably overlooked or misunderstood by the defendants.

It was most important that banking and investment banking advisers and others who sought to include in their agreements with their professional clients provisions for success fees should explain to the professional clients what they had in mind and identify in clear terms in any agreement what was required to trigger the liability to pay a success fee.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Denton Hall.

Power to ban individuals from shopping mall

CIN Properties Ltd v Rawlins and Others

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment February 1]

In the absence of dedication as a highway, or a walkway agreement, pursuant to section 35 of the Highways Act 1980, there was no legal or equitable right for the public to use a pedestrian mall within a town-centre shopping area and any licence to do so could be determined by the owners.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by CIN Properties Ltd from a judgment of Mr Recorder Philip Cox, QC, on January 6, 1994, at Wellingborough County Court on a preliminary issue, whereby he held, in respect of the Swansgate Shopping Centre, Wellingborough, that the public had an irrevocable right to enter and use the malls whenever the doors were open but, as the right was equitable, reasonable conduct was required of those availing themselves of the facilities and in appropriate cases the court would have power to grant injunctions restraining entry to the centre.

Mr Jonathan Gaunt, QC and Mr Nicholas Taggart for CIN Properties; Mr Bruce Coles, QC, Mr James Mason and Mr Mark Piercy for the second to ninth and the thirteenth defendants; the other defendants were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that the appeal raised a question as to the nature of the rights of the public to use the pedestrian malls within a town-centre shopping centre.

The defendants were young men who lived in the area and frequented the centre. CIN alleged that their behaviour caused a nuisance and sent letters to each of them revoking any licence they might have had to enter the centre. When the defendants continued to frequent the centre CIN started an action seeking appropriate declarations and injunctions.

The equitable principle upon which the defendants relied was that referred to in *Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edition, volume 27(1), paragraph 14): "Equity recognises and enforces rights (sometimes referred to as 'equities of possession' or 'equitable licences') so as to restrict the revocation of licences to occupy or use premises which at common law would be regarded as revocable. This restriction occurs where a person who is occupying or using land has acted in reliance upon the representation or the acquiescence of the person having a proprietary interest in respect of that land."

In his Lordship's judgment that principle had no application in the circumstances of the present case. There was no representation by either the council or by CIN that the public would have irrevocable rights to use the pedestrian malls, nor was there any evidence that any member of the public had altered his or her position in reliance upon any such representation.

Indeed, he had the gravest doubts whether that principle could ever apply so as to create rights in favour of the public at large, since it was difficult to see how the acts or omissions of those individuals who relied on a representation could create rights in favour of the public.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and remit the case to Wellingborough County Court to be continued on the basis that CIN had the right, subject only to an issue under section 20 of the Race Relations Act 1976, to determine any licence the defendants might have had to enter the centre.

Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Saville agreed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Lawrences, Wellingborough.

Inferring bicycle had an owner

Sturrock v DPP

Where a defendant admitted to taking a bicycle without the consent of the owner contrary to section 12(5) of the Theft Act 1968, justices were entitled to find that there was a case to answer despite the lack of a formal statement from the owner.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Waterhouse) so held on February 1 when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Stephen Sturrock of the decision of London City Justices on May 11, 1994 that there was a case to answer on a charge of taking a bicycle without the consent of the owner contrary to section 12(5) of the 1968 Act.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that the defendant had admitted in his interview with the police that the bicycle did not belong to him and that the owner had not consented to its taking.

While no statement had been taken from the owner as to his ownership or lack of consent, his Lordship said that the justices were entitled to infer on the basis of the primary facts found that the bicycle had not been abandoned and had an owner.

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THE TIMES

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Scots Law Report February 9 1995 Court of Session

Lease on part of car park site would cause uncertainty

Stirling Plant (Hire and Sales) Ltd v Central Regional Council

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Murray

[Judgment December 15]

Although resort should be made to a compulsory purchase order only when necessary, a local authority seeking to acquire land compulsorily in order to build a car park was justified in rejecting an offer from the owners of a central part of the site to grant it a long lease, because of the uncertainties that could have arisen on the expiry of the lease.

The First Division of the Court of Session so held, refusing an appeal by Stirling Plant (Hire and Sales) Ltd under paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947, as extended by section 60 of the Land Compensation (Scotland) Act 1973, against the Central Regional Council (Stirling Inner Relief Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 1988, which has been confirmed by the Secretary of State for Scotland on February 12, 1993.

Mr Duncan Menzies, QC, for the appellants; Mr Colin McEachran, QC and Mr Alan Hamilton for Central Regional Council; Mr Raymond Docherty for the secretary of state.

THE LORD PRESIDENT delivering the opinion of the court, said that the appellants were the owners of one of five contiguous plots of land subject to the compulsory purchase order, on which the local authority wished to build a car park.

Their objections had been the subject of a public local inquiry, which had considered whether the need for an order could be avoided by the acceptance by the authority of a long lease of the site.

The reporter had noted that the authority was not willing to accept a lease, and had added that, in view of the long-term uncertainties that that arrangement could create, a lease of the site would not be in the wider interests of the purpose of the order. He had recommended that the order be confirmed.

The appellants submitted that the reporter had had no basis in the evidence for his comments about the difficulties such an arrangement might create. They observed that the authority had not led evidence from a policy witness on the issue at the inquiry.

Second, they said that, as the reporter must have had regard to material not raised at the inquiry to which he ought not to have had regard, there had been a breach of the rules of natural justice: see *Fairmont Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment* ([1976] 1 WLR 1255). They maintained that the secretary of state should have reopened the inquiry on that issue.

That argument had appeared to their Lordships at first to be attractive, because the deprivation of ownership which resulted from a compulsory acquisition ought to be resorted to only when it was shown to be necessary. It was not immediately obvious that a long lease would not be a satisfactory alternative.

But on closer examination of the facts their Lordships had decided that there was no sound basis for challenging the order.

The question of leasing had been first raised by the appellants in letters to the authority in February and December 1989, to which the council had replied that the proposal was not acceptable as ownership of all the plots was required in order to provide car parking in the long term for Stirling town centre.

In their reply in January 1990, the appellants had stated for the first time that they would consider a long lease. But the inquiry had by then been imminent and the council had declined to enter into further correspondence.

The appellants had not raised the issue in their objections before the reporter. No notice had been given to the authority that a policy witness was required on that issue or indeed that the policy itself was under attack.

The reporter had noted that point in finding that the council's policy was "not to invest heavily in publicly owned facilities on ground that they do not own", and that the other property owners affected by the order were prepared in principle to sell their land.

The reporter had also noted that no particular term of years had been offered. He had recognised that practical difficulties could arise from mixed tenure of land within the boundaries of the order, because after demolition and redevelopment, the site would only be a featureless portion of a large car park.

Their Lordships observed that the total cost of acquisition was said to be about £200,000 and that development costs were expected to be about £300,000. There had been no evidence about any practical difficulties which might arise from mixed tenure and the reporter did not say that any submissions had been made to him about that.

But, as Lord Russell of Killowen had pointed out in *Fairmont Ltd* (at p1265 E-G), a reporter was not merely trying issues between the local authority and the objector. He might supply deficiences in the case presented to him in the party's evidence from his own professional expertise, as part of his function lay in his own knowledge of the subject.

Their Lordships considered that the reporter had been entitled to take account of the fact that even if a long lease could be negotiated, it would create insecurity as to what was to happen when it expired. There would clearly be difficulty in the operation of the car park if its central section were to revert to appellants.

In view of the tentative way in which the issue had been raised by the appellants, the lack of any notice in their objections and the basis in the evidence let at the inquiry for drawing the necessary inferences, their Lordships did not think that the reporter could reasonably be criticised or making his findings or the secretary of state criticised for accepting them.

An opportunity had been given to the parties to comment on the issue before the secretary of state had taken his decision to confirm the order and in all the circumstances their Lordships did not think that the appellants had been prejudiced by the way in which the matter had been dealt with.

Law agents: Paull & Williamsons; Wright Johnston & MacKenzie; Solicitor to the Secretary of State for Scotland.



JAZZ page 36
Carry on, Cleo: the mellifluous Miss Laine treats the Cafe Royal to a superb vocal display

ARTS

THEATRE, page 37
Paul Merton: great in bed, in a sort of sad but funny way, in Arthur Smith's new play



CINEMA: Horror mixed with humanity in a fine film from New Zealand; old favourites get a modern spring-clean

Sympathy for the devilish

Geoff Brown hails the rare taste and sensitivity shown by director Peter Jackson in *Heavenly Creatures*

Heavenly Creatures
Lumiere, 18, 99 mins
Imaginative film from splatter maestro Peter Jackson

Star Trek: Generations
Empire, PG, 117 mins
New television blood takes the Enterprise *onwards*

Solitaire for 2
Warner West End, 15, 107 mins
Attempt at a British screwball comedy

Dallas Doll
Metro, 18, 104 mins
Botched Australian tale of sexual liberation



Orphan in the making: the matricidal Pauline (Melanie Lynskey) and Juliet (Kate Winslet) let their imaginations run riot in Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures*

The fusty 1950s newsreel drones on about clean, placid Christchurch, "New Zealand city of the plain". Cut to two screaming, blood-spattered girls, running through woods like the terrified victims of a horror movie. By the end we know the girls themselves have spilt the blood and perpetrated the horror; although one of the multiple merits of **Heavenly Creatures** lies in its avoidance of gore. Instead, we focus on the obsessive friendship that brought Pauline Parker and Juliet Hulme to such a pitch.

Since the director is Peter Jackson, his restraint is doubly pleasing. The splatter-movie maestro of *BadTaste* and *Braindead* has grown up, and wedded his imagination to a script calling for something beyond toilet jokes and decapitated heads.

Jackson deals with a real murder case that made headlines in 1954. In the pages of the tabloids, Pauline, quiet and dowdy, and her quick-witted, pretty friend Juliet appear evil incarnate. But *Heavenly Creatures* never treats them as monsters; using Pauline's diaries among other source material, the film explores their minds with wonder and sympathy, plotting the course of an intense relationship that traps the girls in their own fantasies.

Apt casting and extensive use of original locations give the film a strong spine. With her heavy features and unruly hair, Melanie Lynskey's Pauline suggests another New Zealand rebel, the early Janet Frame of *An Angel at My Table*. But her imagination cannot fly unaided: she needs the stimulus of Kate Winslet's Juliet, a glamorous live-wire who shows her mettle on her first day at school by correcting the teacher's French. Together, the pair create a private world of princes, princesses, castles and unicorns, whose people share the faces of pin-ups like Mario Lanza and Mel Ferrer, or even Orson Welles, dubbed "the most hideous man alive".

To help to penetrate this heady teenage world, Jackson calls on the flair for puppetry and trick work last exercised to far different effect in his odious *Meet the Feebles*. Borovnia, the girls' secret kingdom, is populated by Plasticine figures, while computer morphing techniques bridge the increasingly narrow gap between the girls' dreams and the reality outside their heads.

Telling subsidiary roles help the story attain its weight and impact. Sarah Peirse creates a complex portrait of Pauline's mother, an ideal housewife with her own dark shadow, who becomes the focus for the girls' most violent fantasies. Juliet's remote English parents, played by Diana Kent and Clive Merrison, fill another part of the social spectrum.

But the film belongs, inevitably, to the girls, the heavenly creatures who thought themselves beyond mere mortals. Jackson's greatest triumph is to sweep us up into their thoughts, and carry us with the utmost flair through a chain of events bizarre and hilarious, scary and erotic, touching and chilling.

"Scotty, keep things together 'til I come back." Fateful words from Captain James T. Kirk (retired) in **Star Trek: Generations**. For William Shatner is blown into space (tastefully, off screen) when the latest state-of-the-art *Enterprise* botches a routine rescue mission. Jump eight decades, and another *Enterprise* patrols the universe, staffed by the stars of the recently concluded television show, *Star Trek: the Next Generation*.

The man at the bridge is Patrick Stewart's Jean-Luc Picard, lean and bald as a bullet. Roly-poly Kirk, however, will not stay dead, and is conjured up to ease Picard out of a personal crisis and help battle the film's villain, Malcolm McDowell. This meeting of captains may excite Trekkie fans, but it does not make good drama, for Picard's business-like demeanour makes Shatner's Kirk look more than ever a buffoon. Picard talks straight: "Have warp one. Engage!" Kirk's words come dipped in self-parody: "I take it the odds are against us, and the outlook is grim?"

Kirk's presence jars, partly because humour and badinage is otherwise in such short supply. True, the starship contains Brent Spiner's Data, the android who finally wrestles with human emotions following the insertion of the appropriate chip. But, as Picard battles MacDowell's megalomaniac plans to harness some energy ribbons called Nexus — the main business of an over-stuffed plot — straight faces and scientific talk predominate.

Probably in any future film with the *Next Generation* crew, the director and writers will kick up their heels and give the characters more room to breathe. David Carson's current film — awkwardly constructed, a little wordy — is a transitional entry. But with the old crew retired and new co-ordinates set, Paramount's film series should be able to continue flying the galaxy into the next century.

After the space opera of *Star Trek*, **Solitaire for 2** brings us crashing down to earth: London traffic wardens, bookshops, restaurants. The National History Museum. A Hampstead front garden. This is the background to the new film by Gary Sinyor, one of the team responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. His colleague Vadim Jean has since veered off into explicit horror with *Beyond Bedlam*. Sinyor, however, has stayed with humour, and fashioned an eccentric romantic comedy that works only in fits and starts.

The problem starts with the awkward basic idea. Daniel, the hero, is a lecturer in body language, used to applying his skills at manipulation and behavioural science to bed women. Heroine Katie is an archaeologist, unlucky in love and blessed, or cursed, with extra-sensory perception: give her a Tube carriage or a passing waiter, and she can read every thought.

As in Hollywood's vintage screwball comedies, the pair's fractious first meeting eventually blossoms into love, although Sinyor's script lacks the sparkling dialogue that would kick the genre back to life.

His cast also comes up short. Amanda Pays — brittle, defensive, forever completing others' sentences — is acceptable enough as the woman most at ease discussing old bones. But Mark Frankel, hero of *Leon the Pig Farmer*, dispenses his charm so heavy-handedly that his presence becomes wearing.

Sinyor deserves credit for mounting his film smoothly and reviving an attractive genre; but this is clearly a project that needed more time on the drawing board.

Something also went haywire with **Dallas Doll**, an Australian film by Ann Turner, director of *Celia*, that starts off sturdily but ends up smashed in pieces. Hiring Sandra Bernhard as her star might have been the first mistake. True, Bernhard's prickly persona suits the assigned role of Dallas, the American golfing guru who preaches the gospel of self-help and sexual adventure to friends and neighbours at a Sydney golf club. But she remains a stranded stand-up comedienne, not an actress, and her line readings are oddly flat.

Moment by moment, Turner proves she can strike the right offbeat note and paint Aussie suburbia in crazy colours. The film's liberating message is appealing, too: Dallas cheerfully sleeps with all sexes, spreading enlightenment as dead habits are cast aside. But the script increasingly wanders off course, and the climactic arrival of a shoddy-looking UFO leaves the film in complete disarray.

Not playing by the book

Do new films of *Little Women* and *Jungle Book* distort the authors' intentions? **Michael Church** reports

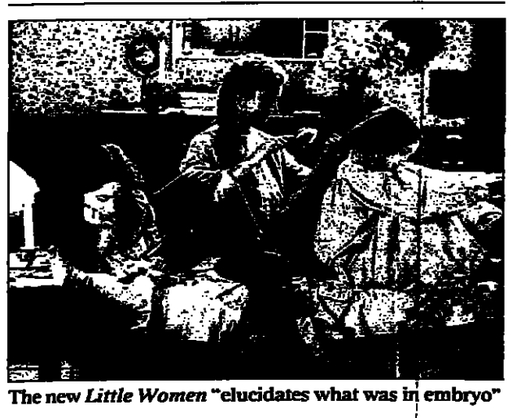
First the books, then the movie, then another movie, and now one more: *The Jungle Book* and *Little Women* certainly have legs. Hollywood's latest stabs at these childhood classics are about to be unveiled, and both have been accused of giving their original a politically correct cleaning-up. But as exercises in philosophy — one dealing with man vis-à-vis the animal world, the other with women vis-à-vis men — they represent the culmination of very different processes.

Kipling was addressing readers from whose walls dead animals would have gazed reproachfully down, and his stories had a revolutionary message. His law of the jungle forbade killing for sport. Moreover, the animals that sheer Mowgli converse with biblical gravity — and Mowgli, honest and courageous, is reincarnation of the noble savage.

Little Women, on the other hand, has long been regarded as a lesson in female subservience. Jo and her sisters seem at their happiest when "fighting faults". Marmee's ambition for her spirited daughters would consign her to outer darkness today: "To be loved and chosen by a good man is the best and sweetest thing which can happen to a woman."

In 1937 George Cukor made the first *Little Women* film, with a tempestuous Katharine Hepburn as Jo. Cukor presented his heroine as a tomboy who gladly tames herself, a wife-in-waiting whose initial rejection of marriage is a regrettable failure to do her duty. Alcott became a cosy echo for Hollywood's sexual certainties.

When the Kordas filmed *The Jungle Book* in 1942 they wove Kipling into another of Hollywood's standard forms.



The new *Little Women* "elucidates what was in embryo"

Taking his notion of a ruined palace inhabited by monkeys, they filled it with treasure, gave pure-hearted Mowgli the key, and pitted the avaricious humans against him. They then had the village elder's daughter fall in love with him.

But they also filled the screen with superb animal photography. If the film's nadir came when Mowgli wrestled with a stuffed tiger underwater, its conclusion, with him riding into the sunset on the back of an elephant, left the other humans on their knees before the majesty of the animal kingdom. Kipling's message was intact.

Although Stephen Sommers, director of the new *Jungle Book*, denies being influenced by Korda, parallels are close. Here again is the ruined palace, replete with treasure. Here again Mowgli is seen as a sexual threat by human society.

"I wanted to make an adventure movie with a love story," Sommers says, unfazed by attacks on his mockery of the original book's imperialism. "As Kipling's stories had no through-line, I took his animal characters and based some invented human characters on them." Thus we get a John Cleese equivalent for Baloo the Bear, and Kipling's pompous elephant in a Sam Neill metamorphosis.

Showbiz considerations apart, Sommers still has time for some simple politics. "Animals are nobler than humans," he says. "That's the moral of the movie."

For Robin Swicord, scriptwriter for the new *Little Women*, politics of the sexual sort are paramount. "Hepburn was wonderful as Jo, but neither in Cukor's movie nor in the next was there any acknowledgment of the book's real theme. It's the story of how a young artist finds her talent."

Swicord has no time for the feminist critique of Alcott. Some things were put into the book, she says, simply to get it published. "But you also find some very forward-looking things, which Louisa managed to slip in as well. I kept asking, what is it she wanted to say, but did not dare?"

As Swicord points out, Alcott was writing about herself in Jo, and the portrait reflected her own, painfully unresolved contradictions. She was a fighter for temperance reform and women's suffrage. She admired her father's communistic crusade, although it was this that ran the family into chronic debt. She even forgave him his extraordinary moral prejudice against girls — like her — with dark hair and dark eyes. And she died, a spinster, on the day he was buried.

Little Women, in Swicord's view, is in some ways a piece of therapy: Alcott gave her fictional father a dignity his real-life exemplar lacked. The one thing she couldn't do, Swicord has done for her. "Louisa had no romantic experience, and she couldn't flesh out a romance for Jo. I had to elucidate what was there in embryo in the book."

In this new version much is also made of Jo's philosopher friends. Swicord and director Gillian Armstrong (best known for directing that proto-feminist Aussie saga *My Brilliant Career*) have drawn heavily on Alcott's own bewitchment by her father's famous friends, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau.

So while *The Jungle Book* disappears into the belly of the Hollywood beast, *Little Women* now emerges as a conviction movie, made by women determined to rehabilitate an unjustly maligned author.

● The Jungle Book *opens next week*; Little Women *on March 17*

RADIO: The warming Fairest Isle season

Pull over and listen

I have so far made only passing reference to the Fairest Isle season on Radio 3. Actually it is four seasons rather than one, since this celebration of British music (under the grander overall title of Radio 3 Year of British Music and Culture) lasts until December.

Part of my reticence has been caused by a need to fight the suspicion that always arises when people start bombarding me with gifts, especially gifts I enjoy having, even when they come thinly disguised as "publicity material".

One of my several mentors in the business of journalism once told me that all gifts should be sent back unless they can be eaten or drunk. But what the hell: I may be cheap, but not so cheap that a book and a CD can buy me off.

Mind you, it is a double CD and the book is a very swish little number by the standards of Radio 3, whose cries for attention usually come typed on a sheet of A4. But even if I was not engrossed in listening to it and reading it, I would have to say that Fairest Isle promises to make this an outstanding year for Radio 3.

The excuse for this extravaganza is that this is the 90th birthday year of Michael Tippett and the tercentenary of Henry Purcell, which should not be taken to mean that Fairest Isle is exclusively about the old and the dead.

One of the curiosities of British classical music is that it is not much honoured in its own country and, indeed, not all that much played. Mention Elgar and people start recalling the Last Night of the Proms. Walton? Um, William, wasn't it? Tippett? Noisy.

But we have orchestras and chamber ensembles up and down the land, and the BBC is itself the largest sponsor of classical music in this country — a bigger sponsor than any other broadcasting organisation anywhere in the world.

I shall not attempt to review the individual programmes in the Fairest Isle series, except to mention a marvellous Sunday lunchtime series, *Music, Nothing But Music*, which is introduced by Roderick Swanston and is a terrific journey into the backwaters of English music.

That, and other parts of Fairest Isle, are introducing me to music that I never knew existed, written by men whose names reach me, in some cases from several centuries away, as fresh as a new dawn: Pycard, Dunstable, Taverner, Sheppard.

Musicologists and other critics will doubtless want to argue the details of the selection process that has necessarily gone into Fairest Isle, but those of us with a shallower appreciation can only marvel at the sheer quantity and range of English music which the series is uncovering.

This may be radio for Eurosceptics and it is timely proof that the French and the Germans don't have all the best tunes, but it is about time somebody stood up for the home team. Never mind that we can't play cricket, we can write proper music.

PETER BARNARD

THE TIMES



Harmony: the Royal Philharmonic's woodwind section

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The RPO plays regular seasons in London at the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall and tours extensively, earning it the title of Britain's national orchestra. Its president, Yehudi Menuhin, will conduct Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No 5* and Britten's *Violin Concerto* with Ida Haendel at the Barbican on March 3. RPO concerts in the Royal Festival Hall include Radu Lupu playing Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 1*, conducted by Marek Janoski, on March 30 and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducting his own *Stone Litany* on May 10. You can also see the RPO in Bristol, Crawley, Leicester, Nottingham and Southend.

A full list of concerts available in London was printed on Tuesday and a regional listing will be printed next Tuesday.

To book your 20p tickets collect six of the tokens we will be publishing over the next two weeks and then choose your concert. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 20p.

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LONDON

DEALER'S CHOICE: Opening night for Patrick Marber, co-writer of numerous Steve Coogan shows, directing his own first play, a comedy about an all-night poker game
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight, 7pm Then Fri, 7.30pm and Sat, 2.30 and 7.30pm.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: With Juliet Stevenson as the victimised heroine and Simon Russell Beale her sadistic twin brother, the production (by Philip Franks) promises to be electrifying.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm Opens Feb 13

SPRING LOADED: Union Dance celebrates the launch of the 1995 Spring Loaded dance season and its own tenth anniversary with its usual exuberant mix of ballet, modern, jazz and "street" moves. Bunty Matthias takes over tomorrow with a young, diverse group for another very physical dance piece.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800). Union tonight, 7.45pm; *Matthias*: Fri, Sat, 8.45pm.

VISIONS OF PARADISE: The LSO Chamber Players continue Michael Tippett's birthday celebrations with a programme chosen to reflect the composer's own varied tastes. The clarinet is a favourite tonight, with works from Beethoven, Bartók and Copland and a closing choice of Debussy's

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Sonata for flute, viola and harp
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

MANCHESTER: The Hallé Orchestra's audience has a wonderful treat in store this evening. George Benjamin conducts his most recent orchestral work, *Sudden Time*, in a programme that includes Ravel, Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* and Messiaen (with Messiaen's widow, Yvonne Loriod, the piano soloist in *Reveil des Oiseaux*).
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm.

CARLISLE: Martin Roscoe joins conductor George Hurst and the BBC Philharmonic tonight for a performance of Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2. The programme also includes a rarely-heard Beethoven piece, overture, *Consecration of the House* and Elgar's Enigma Variations.
Sands Centre (01228 25222). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NOTTINGHAM: The great David Pountney turns his hand from opera when the curtain rises tonight on his first-ever theatre production, Twelfth Night. With Cathy Tyson, Campbell Morrison, Christopher Good, Richard Durden and Alexandra Mathie; designs by the Huntley Muir team.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (01602 419419). Previews tonight and Fri, 7.30pm, opens Sat Until Mar 11

EXETER: Stephen King's tingling tale of obsession, Misery, is given another outing to open the Northcott's spring season. Emlyn Price and Susan Curnow are the superstar novelist and his number one fan.
Northcott, Stocker Road (0392 54853). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm. Until Feb 25.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638 4141) ... British Museum: Byzantine Treasures from British Collections (0171-636 1555) .. Courtauld: Frank Dobson: Sculpture 1915-1954 (071-873 2526) ... Crafts Council: Furniture Today: Design and Craft (071-278 7700) ... Hayward: Yves Klein (071-928 3144) ... National Gallery: The Age of Elegance (0171-839 3321) ... National Portrait Gallery: Christina Rossetti, final week (0171-306 0055) ... Royal Academy: The Revival of the Palladian Style (0171-439 7438) Serpentine: Man Ray (0171-402 6075) Tate: New Displays 1995 (0171-887 8000) ... V & A: Warworks: Women, Photography and the Art of War (0171-938 8500) ... Whitechapel: Worlds in a Box, final week (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

■ AS YOU LIKE IT: Cheek by Jowl's all-male Shakespeare, spare, inventive, endearingly funny, with Adrian Lester a ravishing Rosalind
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Feb 11

◪ THE CHILDREN'S HOUR: Clare Higgins and Harriet Walter as two schoolteachers accused of being lovers by a brat student. Lilian Hellman's powerful drama from 1934, directed by Howard Davies.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm.

☐ THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE: Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ DANGEROUS CORNER: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm. Until Mar 11.

☐ FULL MOON: Jon Strickland plays the hero of Caradog Prichard's powerful and haunting semi-autobiographical novel, set in the slatemine districts of North Wales. Helena Kaut-Howson's Theatr Clwyd production comes to London after a sell-out tour.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, from Feb 18, 2.30pm Until Mar 4.

☐ THE LIBERTINE: Stephen Jeffreys's excellent portrait of the life and times of the rakehell Earl of Rochester.
In repertoire with *The Man of Mode*
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Tonight, 7.30pm.

☐ LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST: Jenny Agutter returns to the RSC with new cast for final performances of Ian Judge's pleasing production.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm

◪ MAMA I WANT TO SING: The longest-running Off-Broadway black musical, based on the life of the Harlem singer Doris Troy (who here plays her own mother). Cast includes the charismatic Chaka Khan
Cambridge, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Tue and Sat, 3pm. Until Apr 8.

◪ A PATCHWORK QUILT: Tanya and her grandmother sew a patchwork of memories over four generations of a black family from the Deep South. Michael Miller's version of the children's book by Valerie Flournoy
Polka, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 (0181-543 4888). Previews tonight, 2pm and 7pm. Opens Feb 11, 2pm and 5.30pm; until Apr 8

◪ PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN: Michel Vinaver's murder-trial drama where figures from the past of the accused (Lucy Tregear) try to fit her crime into some re-assuring system of cause and effect. Sam Walters directs
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633) Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm Opens Feb 14, until Mar 18.

◪ ZORRO — THE MUSICAL: The masked swashbuckler of comics legend returns to twirl his cape in Ken Hill's latest (and sadly last) musical romp Sylvester McCoy also in the cast.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Now previewing. 8pm. Opens Feb 14

LONG RUNNERS

☐ Arcadia: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . ☐ Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ... ◪ Buddy: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) .. ◪ Cats: New London (0171-405 0072) ... ☐ Crazy for You: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) .. ☐ Don't Dress for Dinner: Duchess (0171-494 5070) ... ☐ Five Guys Named Moe: Lyric (0171-494 5045) .. ◪ Grease: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ... ◪ Hamlet: Gielgud (0171-494 5065) ◪ Les Misérables: Palace (0171-434 0909) .. ◪ Miss Saigon: Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) .. ☐ My Night With Reg: Criterion (0171-839 4488) . ■ Oliver!: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ☐ On Approval: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) ... ☐ Only the Lonely: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) ... ◪ A Passionate Woman: Comedy (0171-369 1731) .. ☐ She Loves Me: Savoy (0171-836 8888) .. ☐ The Sisters Rosensweig: Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ■ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ... ◪ Sunset Boulevard: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ■ Three Tall Women: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) .. ◪ The Woman in Black: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

I LIKE IT LIKE THAT (15): Cheerful drama of Bronx family life from debuting director Darnell Martin; with Lauren Vélez and Jon Seda.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

LEON (18): Precious child shelters under a hitman's wing. Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York by French director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno, Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odeons: Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

◆ THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE (18): Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanitarium. Overdone health food satire, with Anthony Hopkins, Bridget Fonda, Matthew Broderick. Director, Alan Parker.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Leicester Square (01426 915683) Marble Arch (01426 914501) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15): Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) Odeon Mezzanine (01426 915683) Plaza (0800 888997)

BARCELONA (12): Whit Stillman's successor to *Metropolitan*, an agreeable blend of romance, politics and disco dancing, set during the early 1980s. With Taylor Nichols and Chris Eigeman
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeons: Haymarket (01426-915353) Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG): Delectable mosaic of Taipei family life from the director of *The Wedding Banquet*, Ang Lee.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) Renoir (0171-837 8402)

◆ INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan
Barbican (0171-638 8891) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

NOSTRADAMUS (15): Life and prophecies of the 16th-century legend. Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer. Director, Roger Christian
Odeon Mezzanine (01426 915683)

◆ ONLY YOU (PG): Marisa Tomei chases the man of her dreams through Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr Director, Norman Jewison.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426-915 574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

◆ PULP FICTION (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ SHALLOW GRAVE (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Gate (0171-727 4043) MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) Richmond (0181-332 0030) Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Warner (0171-437 4343)

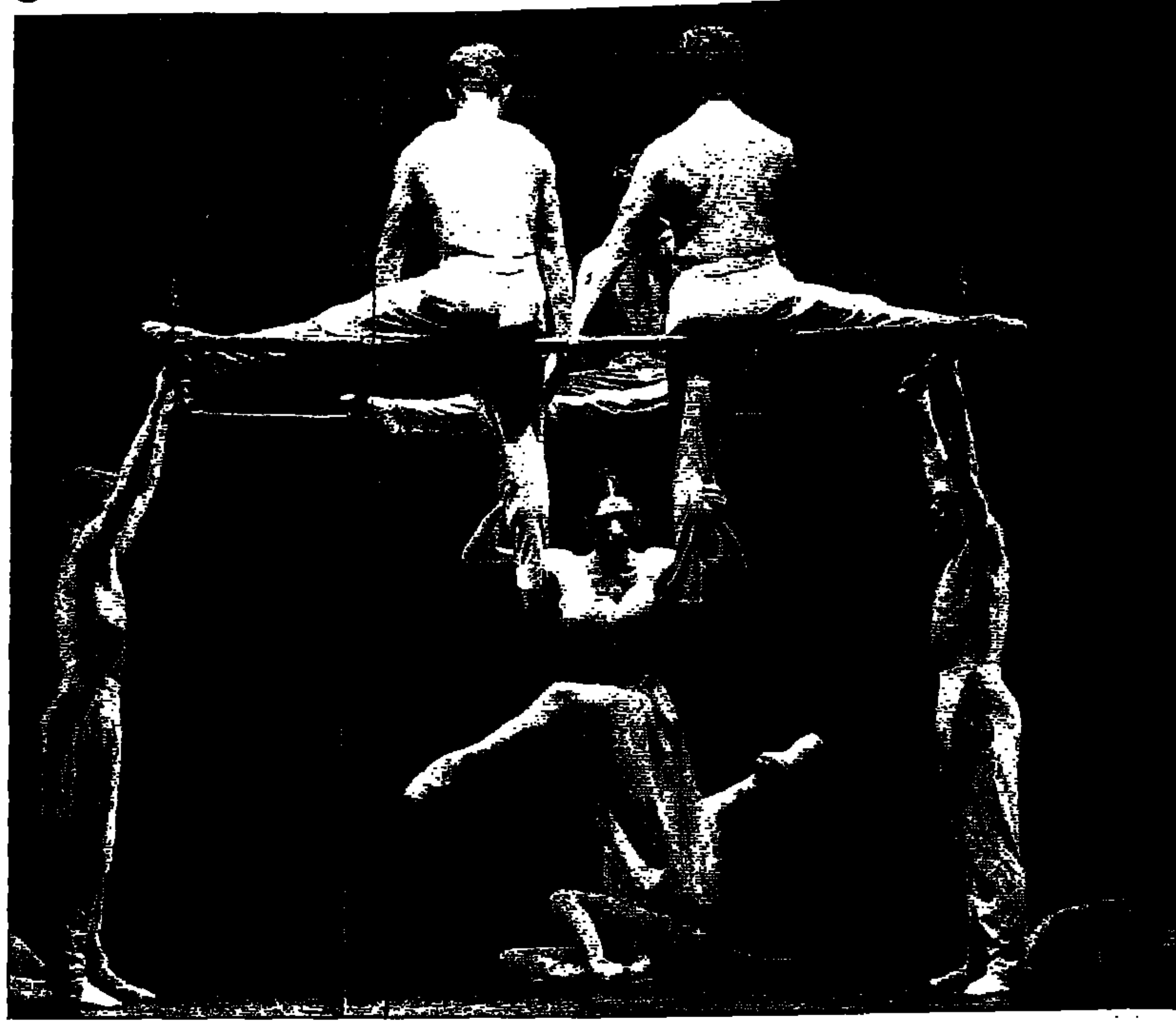
◆ THE SPECIALIST (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ STARGATE (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; with Jaye Davidson. Director, Roland Emmerich.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Mezzanine (01426 915683) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

VANYA ON 42ND STREET (U): Absorbing film of Andre Gregory's treatment of *Uncle Vanya*, caught in rehearsal by Louis Malle's cameras at a decrepit New York theatre. Wallace Shawn, Julianne Moore, Brooke Smith and George Gaynes head the fine cast.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366)

DANCE: **Debra Craine** reviews a mixed bag of steamy moves, biblical bad boys and jolly tars

Raunchy blues and sweethearts



DEE CONWAY

Stylish swivel and swagger: Matthew Hart's blues-inspired *Street*, performed by Birmingham Royl Ballet

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Sadler's Wells

THIS week Peter Wright has brought his Midlands company to its London birthplace for one last season under his leadership. The next time Birmingham Royal Ballet comes to the Wells it will be with David Bintley at the helm, and if he was there on Tuesday night to see BRB's triple bill he had the chance to appreciate the strengths, and weaknesses, of the company he is to inherit.

Developing young choreographers is a task crucial to BRB's future. One of those nurtured by Wright is Matthew Hart, whose *Street* opened the bill. He is a dancemaker of promise, although that might be hard to discern on the basis of this 1993 effort.

Set to a blues concerto by the American William Russo, the ballet's four movements relate to different moods of the day — dawn, midday sun, siesta and fiesta. A programme note tells us that we are "in a hot climate somewhere in the southern hemisphere" but there is nothing geographically specific about the choreography. Dancers stretch stylishly, swivel their hips and swagger across stage as they blend classical display with deliberately awkward accents.

The macho bonhomie of the men and the slinky sensuality of the women is familiar from dozens of other ballets, but Hart is young and still leafing through the dance dictionary looking for his own vocabulary. *Street's* real selling point is its seductive score and some great harmonica playing from the blues master Paul Jones.

George Balanchine was also a young choreographer — only 25 — when he made *Prodigal Son* for Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1929. His dance language was already astonishingly sophisticated, although here Balanchine eschewed classicism in favour of a more fashionable expressionism. This makes *Prodigal Son* difficult to revive convincingly: the crassly explicit steps often look faintly ridiculous, as they occasionally did on Tuesday.

Finding the right male dancer for the lead is also a problem, especially in a company which suffers from a weakness in its male ranks, as Birmingham does. Michael O'Hare certainly lacks the dramatic gravitas we have come to expect in this role. His approach is to be pathetic and ineffectual right from the start: a frightened rabbit just waiting to be ensnared in the Siren's headlights. But set this against Monica Zamora's equally insipid temptress and you have a duo as sexually charged as a soft-boiled egg.

More spirit was to be found in the programme's final work, however. With its broad comic strokes and bouncy Savoy Opera melodies, Cranko's jolly sailors-and-sweethearts romp, *Pineapple Poll*, always goes down well with an audience. Birmingham Royal Ballet do this kind of comedy well, wearing its music-hall heritage with ease and neve overdoing the slapstick.

Sandra Madgwick is a per heroine, Joseph Cipolla a jaunty ad landsomely buffoonish Captair Blaye. The entire ensemble brought this perennial favourite to life, a fict which bodes well for Ashton's pastralcomedy *La Fille mal gardée* which BRB performs at Sadler's Wells for the next three nights.

CONCERTS: Bryan Ferry's bespoke tailoring for the ears; Cleo Laine returns in triumph to the Café Royal

Image is nearly everything

Bryan Ferry
Apollo, W6

A RECENT colour supplement based a feature around holiday snapshots of the stars. These off-duty Polaroids filled four pages, and showed household names looking silly or sunburnt or in some cases simply sozzled. Not Bryan Ferry, though. There he was on some distant, expensive beach, hands in the pockets of his designer shorts, shirt-tails knotted at the waist, enviable profile presented just so. If only some seagull had passed comment from on high, I found myself thinking.

The music of this one-time iconoclast now complements the endlessly self-conscious media image exactly. *Mamouna*, the current album, is bespoke tailoring for the ears. Every detail has been attended to, and the cut is perfect; yet where is that dash of wit or even cheerful vulgarity that signals personality?

It was certainly not there in the elegantly moody version of *I Put A Spell On You* which opened this one-off London show, part of a short British tour. But a mood of tasteful languor was successfully established, later to be supplemented by a clever stage set, creative use of lighting and an excellent band that included the veteran Robin Trower on lead guitar. Ferry was a dashing and active frontman too: having seen him posed so often amid the pages of glossy magazines, I was shocked to find that he could move at all, let alone animate the upper reaches of his leather trousers with such aplomb.

"And to think he'll be 50 next birthday," commented the man next to me, with an awe normally bestowed on those who, in their most twilight years, develop a taste for white-water rafting. I shared his wonder. Ferry may have had a headstart of 15 years or more on most of his adoring audience, but he looked in better nick than the lot of us.

Which didn't help the music, necessarily. The post-Roxy Music stuff was, by and large, extremely tedious, for all that it was so impeccably played. But 35 minutes in, the intro to *Virginia Plain* caused a first stampede towards the footlights, and the subsequent if sporadic likes of *Jealous Guy, Love Is The Drug* and *Stick Together* thundered along just in time whenever you began to think the plot had been lost for good.

The high spot, undoubtedly, was a thrilling version of the 1973 track *In Every Dream Home A Heartache*, which had everything that the newest songs lacked — drama, invention and a sense of humour, albeit a dark one. Even Ferry seemed transported by it: for the only time in the entire evening, he forgot to punctuate each second line by running a world-weary hand through that wonderful head of hair.

ALAN JACKSON

A scat on hot licks

Cleo Laine/ John Dankworth
Green Room

IN DAYS of yore Cleo Laine made regular nightclub appearances in Soho, giving command performances at Ronnie Scott's. More recently her British audiences have generally had to be content with hearing her in concert halls, which makes her return to the intimate setting of the Green Room all the more of an event.

A wildly improbable 67, she still cuts a glamorous figure, though as she observed in her usual self-mocking tone, her residency will give everyone an opportunity to scrutinise any new wrinkles. More to the point her voice, which seems to have lost only a shade of its range, must still be one of the most precise instruments the world has to offer.

It was used to full effect on an up-tempo arrangement of the glorious Johnny Mercer-Jimmy Van Heusen standard *I Thought About You*. Opening with a hustling locomotive-like figure supplied by Allan Ganley's brushwork on the drums — which complemented the sense of motion conveyed in the bitter-sweet lyrics — the song gathered further momentum when Laine's scat vocals took off on soaring unison passages with John Dankworth's saxophone.

Those minutely-sculpted interludes, tiny miracles of intonation, were scattered throughout the evening, neither partner missing a note. You could argue that the virtuosity sometimes blurred the emotional thrust of a number. Perhaps so. But there was ample compensation in the subtle group dynamics, especially John Horler's filigree piano phrases and the fine detail of Dankworth's obbligatos on clarinet, alto and soprano saxes. Laine is always a good, unselfish team player, who is willing to submerge her voice in the ensemble. She moved to centre-stage on *The Lies of Handsome Men*, the opening tune on her current album, *Blue and Sentimental*. A sophisticated contemporary lament, the ballad drew on all of Laine's skills as an actress.

CLIVE DAVIS

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

W H PATTERSON, 19 Albemarle Street, W1. EXHIBITION - Venice in Peril - Oils and Watercolours by leading contemporary artists until 11th February. Mon-Fri 9.30-6.00, Sats 10-1. Tel: 071 629 4119.

CABARET

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OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hrs) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 KING PRIAM Tomor 7.30 RIGOLETTO

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets avail on the day The Royal Opera Tomor (First Night), Mon 7.30 LA BOHEME Sat, Wed 6.30 DER ROSENKAVALIER 'the nearest opera gets to heaven' Daily Mail The Royal Ballet Ton't, Tue 7.30 GISELLE 'a performance to treasure' Times

CINEMAS

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, Off Charing Cross Rd. 071-369 1721 (no bkg fee) VANYA ON 42ND STREET (U) Progs at 12.45 (not Sun), 3.15, 5.45, 8.15.

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Starring BETTY BUCKLEY and JOHN BARROWMAN 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKINGS 413 3302 (bkg fee) NO BOOKING FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 Mr Barrowman does not appear Mon

ALBERY WC2 BO 0171 369 1730 CC 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) RIK MAYALL STEPHEN FRY CELL MATES A new play written & directed by SIMON GRAY PREVS FROM TUE OPENS 16 FEB. Eves 8pm Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm

ALBERY 071 369 1730/344 4444 (24hrs no fee) CHEEK BY JOWL AS YOU LIKE IT Mon - Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat 2.30 UNTIL 11 FEB ONLY

ALDWYCH cc 071 416 6003 071 497 9977 (no fee) Reduced Previews from Feb 15 Evgs 7.30 Sat Mat 3.0 Opens Feb 27 FELICITY KENDAL MARGARET TYZACK & ART MALIK in TOM STOPPARD'S New Play INDIAN INK Directed by PETER WOOD

APOLLO BO/CC 24hrs 0171 494 5049/344 4444 (no bkg fee) cc 497 9977 (bkg fee) TONY SLATTERY in NEVILLE'S ISLAND by TIM FIRTH "THE MOST DAZZLING PLAY OF OUR TIMES" Jack Tinker Mon-Fri 8.0 Sat 8.30 Mats Fri 4.30 & Sat 5.0 LAST 2 WEEKS

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6043 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 497 9977 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail While knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO 0171 494 5068/ 344 4444/ 497 9977 PETER BOWLES LISA HARROW IN PRAISE OF LOVE By Terence Rattigan REDUCED PRICE PREVS 21 FEB All Seats £10 & £15 Eves 8pm, Mat Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

ARTS THEATRE GLNewport St WC2 BO 071 836 2132 / CC 071 344 4444 (24hrs) FEVER PITCH NICK HORNBY'S BEST SELLING BOOK IS NOW A HIT PLAY! Mon-Fri 8, Sat 6.15 & 8.30 Ltd Season

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FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (24hrs No fee) 344 4444 (No fee)/ Grps 413 3321 "A REAL THRILL OF HORROR" The Sunday Times JOHN NORMINGTON MICHAEL GRANDAGE Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Tues 3pm & Sat 4pm

GARRICK 071 494 5083 CC 497 9977 PAUL MERTON CAROLINE QUENTIN Arthur Smith's new comedy LIVE BED SHOW Directed by Audrey Cooke Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.30 & 8.45pm STUDENT STANDBY £9.50

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THEATRE: Merton and Quentin's pyjama gamesmanship; excellent new Juliet; Bennett taken seriously; mystery of man

Fine romance with no kisses

Benedict Nightingale pans for the nuggets of reality amid the river of laughs in Arthur Smith's new comedy

Virtually the only items of furniture on the Garrick stage are two single beds that sometimes merge to become a large double. The two characters, a man and a woman, spend the entire evening in their nightwear, thinking and talking mainly about sex. Indeed, the play itself begins with the sound of the woman reaching climax. What have we here, a slice of Soho transported down the Charing Cross Road, a tentacle of the Paul Raymond empire sprouting just off Leicester Square? Certainly, that seemed to be the hope of one member of the first-night audience, who suddenly yelled "Get yer kit off" during one of the quiet bits.

Well, he was about as wrong as he could be. Had the author been French or Italian or Scandinavian, there might have been all sorts of suggestive carryings-on in that eternal bedroom. But he is Arthur Smith, the most English of names and, on the evidence of his play, one of the most English of temperaments. Sex here is the object of anxiety, frustration, dogged obsession, and a million rueful wisecracks. Its god is less Eros than Tony Hancock and its uniform, even for females, is a pair of striped pyjamas. It does not appear to occur much and, when it does, is not to be much fun: but, again in British style, it provokes an awful lot of laughter.

After all, what do the orgasmic noises that open Audrey Cooke's production turn out to be? When the curtain finally rises, they are revealed as a jokey attempt by Caroline Quentin's Maria to get the attention of Paul Merton's Cash, who is in bed beside her. It emerges that she sort of loves him, but doesn't really fancy him, and that he has been lying there for a decade without having eaten or ("a bit odd") gone to the loo. It emerges that this is another of his dreams, one in which he comes across as a flummoxed, insecure couch potato.

Live Bed Show
Garrick

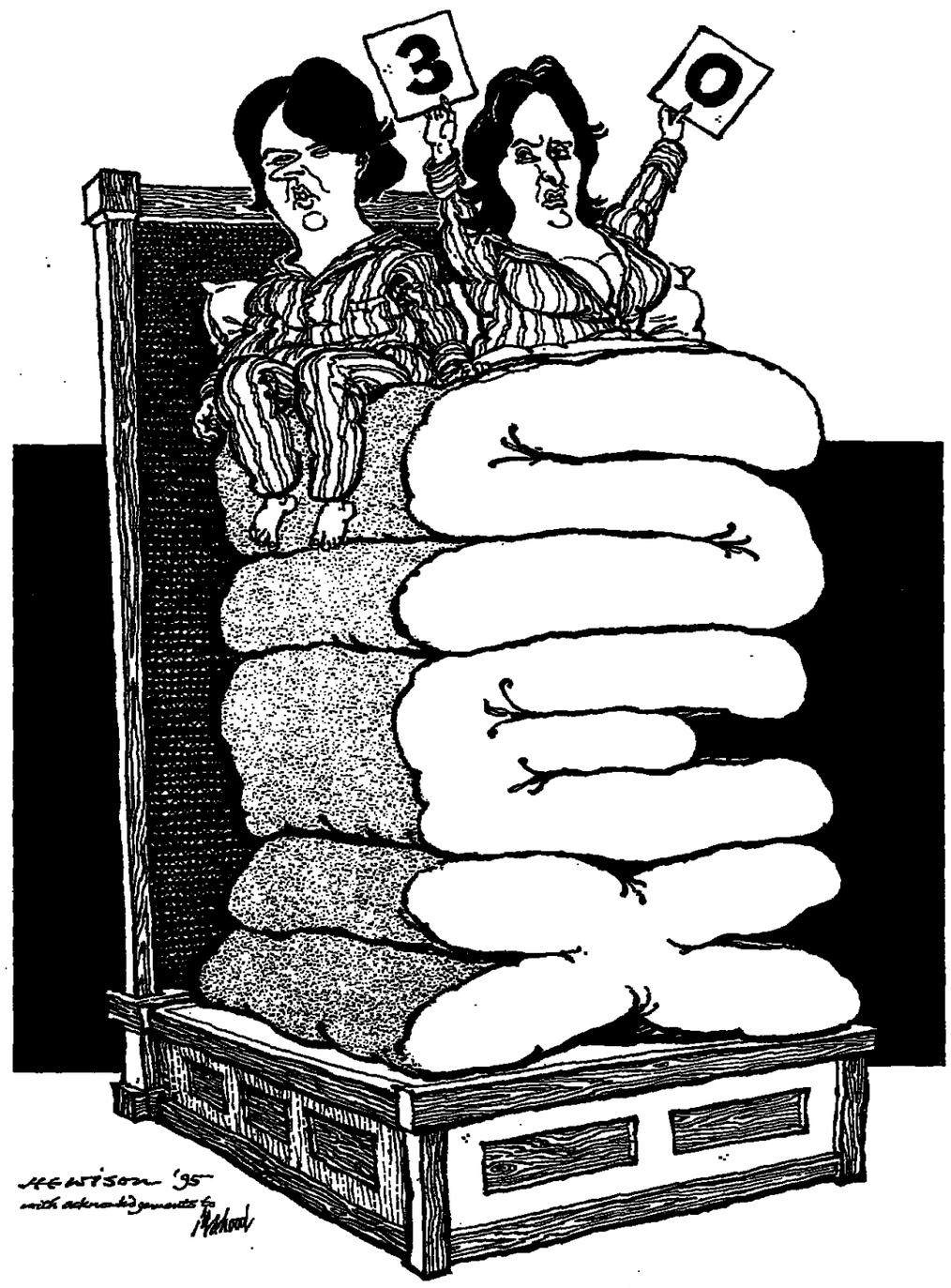
Smith cuts dreams and monologues into the tale of a relationship that he also sometimes rewinds or fast-forwards, not always to the benefit of clarity, let alone depth. Nevertheless, the result is enormously entertaining. One reason for this is the author's gift for dry, droll dialogue, and another is his leading man's talent for squeezing any residual wetness out of the dry and any hint of cuteness from the droll. Quentin combines wry humour with plenty of post-feminist confidence: but with Smith writing and Merton acting, it is the male ego that is more fully represented.

Cash is 35, unmarried and surer of the prospect of death than of love. Again and again he tries and fails to get Maria into his bed for other than platonic purposes, taking her to a Basil Brush retrospective at the National Film Theatre and a play called *Flowers in the Sink* in a pub-theatre, sending her roses she doesn't want, and writing her love letters of surpassing gloom. His idea of a marriage proposal is to say "I'm not mad, I'm not skint, and I love my mum", and his notion of parenthood is to tell a child: "You have a go: I've tried being alive and now it's your turn."

Merton looks like a mushroom with a hangover. He embodies English fatalism, but without becoming the least bit feeble or soft-centred. We watch him lugubriously reacting to Maria's claim to be celibate, glumly falling in love, and going on holiday with her in a Mediterranean resort "like Loughborough painted white".

Meanwhile, the doleful, self-deprecating quips keep coming, helping us to overlook the play's weaknesses of structure. These mainly occur in what, considering the play is already short, seems an unnecessarily rushed denouement. Do Maria and Cash marry, have a child, lose themselves in silly sex-games, get divorced, meet six years later in a rainy London street? What is dream, what is reality, and why?

But maybe such apparent essentials do not matter. What counts is the way the play sees love among the young middle-aged of 1995: as a hilariously unfunny business.



Paul Merton and Caroline Quentin in *Live Bed Show*: "Sex here is the object of anxiety, frustration, dogged obsession and a million rueful wisecracks. Its god is less Eros than Tony Hancock and its uniform a pair of striped pyjamas"

All the lonely people

IN THIS play, second prize-winner in a recent Mobil Playwriting Competition, Phyllis Nagy second-guesses her audience, *Jeremy Kingston writes*. We assume she is writing about a woman who walked out of a New York bar and has not been seen since.

The man who left with her has been shown to be seriously weird, even going so far as to boast that his hobby is drowning women in his bath. He will be traced, perhaps, and sure enough a detective arrives at his apartment — one room plus spotless bathroom — just before the interval. He holds out his hands for the arrest, so what is left for the second half?

The play does continue to reveal details of young Sarah Casey's life. She is a travel agent who has never travelled, burdened with a foul-tongued mother, an averagely thick boyfriend and a notion that the 1960s hit "Eleanor" was written about her, even though the Turtles recorded it before she was born.

But Nagy's prime concern is with the character of the perp (short for perpetrator), or rather the alleged perp, whose name, Elston Rupp, is as peculiar as his speech habits and who is brought disquietingly to life by Kerry Shale.

Disappeared
Leicester

He is employed at a thrift shop, receiving and selling second-hand clothes. These he sometimes wears, whether or not they fit him, as he wanders around town, hoping to be spoken to, or smiled at, or even noticed. Shale gives him a creepy smile, shifty eyes and a shifty mouth. Asked a question, it is most improbable he will give a direct answer, preferring to fantasise about his non-existent friends, or to take on the personality of former owners of his clothes. One such unfortunate is drawn into the case because Rupp happened to be wearing his tuxedo on the night of the disappearance.

In the early scenes Nagy's dialogue seems to be going nowhere in particular, and is coupled with a fondness for making some characters callously jest about calamity. But as her play, in Derek Wax's suspenseful production, draws initially peripheral figures into the foreground, a portrait emerges of a society where carefully constructed boundaries can disappear as abruptly as the dazed and dreamy Sarah.

Alexandra Gilbreath has not quite got the hang of Sarah in her first bar scene, where her drawl and her posture feel wrong, but by the close, when Tim Shortall's set opens up and she steps out into the night, she is registering a mesmerised resolve that is really affecting.

But it is Shale's portrayal of a man whose manner will always frustrate his needs, even if he attains a sort of grace, that will stay in the mind.

Woof a young pup with snap and bite

Romeo and Juliet
Lyric, Hammersmith

THE eternal problem with this play is finding an actress who convincingly looks a young adolescent — the Nurse reminds Lady Capulet that her daughter is not yet 14 — but who commands the dramatic resources to communicate felt passion. By the time an actress is mature enough to play the role she is too old.

Neil Bartlett's lucid direction — a co-production with the West Yorkshire Playhouse, transferring to Leeds next month — is helped immeasurably by the casting of Emily Woof, previously best known for her witty and agile solo shows and here performing her first classical role. A head shorter than anyone else in the company, she presents a neat, bright-eyed alertness, unassumingly confident of her beauty and intelligence.

Bartlett opens the play with the closing responses of the Mass, from which Woof's Juliet dutifully returns home, but not without casting a shrewd glance at the loitering males. Yet there is nothing tarty about her. She is a normal young girl, obeying and disobeying her father's will. She politely partners the stiflingly wellbred Paris in a few boring dance steps because her father tells her to, although a rave with her cousins is probably more to her taste. But when he comes the odious heavy father, she does not recoil, weep or collapse. You can see in Woof's face a gathering resolve to switch off all allegiance to the older generation.

DONALD COOPER



Romeo (Stuart Bunce) and his Juliet (Emily Woof) in a scene from Neil Bartlett's imaginative production

In her wedding-night monologue, one of the rare occasions when Juliet makes liberal use of metaphors — Romeo employs them all the time — Woof combines gestures of restless anticipation with an almost laughing delivery of the lines. Although in command of herself from the start, her performance firmly charts a progress towards the final self-command, and it is entirely in keeping that she should end her life with the bold thrust of a dagger. I can't recall another Shakespeare heroine who does so. Only in the moments before taking the sleeping potion does Woof's voice become ragged.

Bartlett sets the play against a dark blue wall on an almost bare stage, where scenes overlap to give a sense of the tragedy's onward rush. As the lovers walk off to be married, Sebastian Harcombe's Mercutio, although in another part of town, strolls between them. Foreground action is highlighted against events beyond, although I could have done with fewer circuits from Souad Faress's Lady Capulet.

Stuart Bunce emphasises the knife-edge hysteric quality in Romeo, which is there in the lines but would make Juliet's love for him hard to explain were it not that Bunce can bring a tenderness to his expression, notably so in his attempt to befriend Tybalt. David Foxxe is an authoritative Friar Laurence, and judicious editing, although reducing the power of Mercutio, has provided an accessible text from which Bartlett creates a streamlined drama and Woof an auspicious Shakespearean debut.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Older, but not necessarily wiser

Getting On
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

SEVERAL years ago now, Prunella Scales played the Queen with aplomb in Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution*. Today, the partnership is back, if not so successfully. Scales, with her husband Timothy West heading the cast, is directing in Leeds, the city where Bennett grew up. She is reviving the playwright's second full-length piece.

Set in a stripped pine home in Highgate during the Edward Heath era, *Getting On* provides glimpses into the private lives of a politician — George Oliver — his family and associates. More precisely, here we have the handyman, the wife, the Labour MP and their close friend — Brian Lowther, a gay Conservative. There are occasional appearances from Polly's mildly bohemian mother and George's joint-smoking teenage son.

With a serio-comic eye, Bennett scrutinises the upper middle classes: their jumble of left-wing and right-wing values; their marital relations. Affairs and love triangles cross generations, genders and social strata.

Bennett was not amused by the original West End production in 1971. He was banned from rehearsals while the script was, apparently, adjusted to suit the company's preference for laughs over profundity. Scales's staging, bringing Bennett back into the proceedings, accrues seriousness as the evening goes on.

Kate Lynn Evans's Polly burns with suppressed grief and frustration as her lover, Geoff, packs his tools and leaves for Torremolinos. Standing abandoned on the stairs down to the kitchen, she finally explodes as her older husband obliviously holds forth, forever jocularly bombastic.

West's George, also shouted down by his son for his sexually prying assumptions, and by Brian for assuming easy solutions to a case of blackmail and imminent public scandal, slumps on the sofa, weighed down by a growing awareness of people getting on in years and not getting on personally or professionally.

All the same, this isn't Bennett's best work. He has improved with age, as should this production. Though some of Bennett's dialogue is as witty as Noel Coward and makes some strong points about sexual prejudice, the play can border on easy-watching sitcom.

This is partly the fault of the production. Though the programme underlines the unsympathetic nature of George, which was skirted around in 1971, West seems quite as amusing and benign as he is domineering. Evans's Polly lacks a half-dismissive edge in her attitude to the uneducated Geoff.

Hints of intimacy or competitiveness are inadequately pointed. Other performances need toning down and naturalising. There are stiff set speeches, half-directed at the audience. Polly's voluble mother (Paula Jacobs) is over-projecting. Geoff's young working-class lip seems to be permanently curled. But West, saggy and a bit loose at the seams, and a carefully groomed Christopher Strauli, playing Brian, look a perfect pair of MPs.

KATE BASSETT

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Stephen Logan applauds the courage of a maverick whose scholarship deserves to be taken more seriously by academic critics

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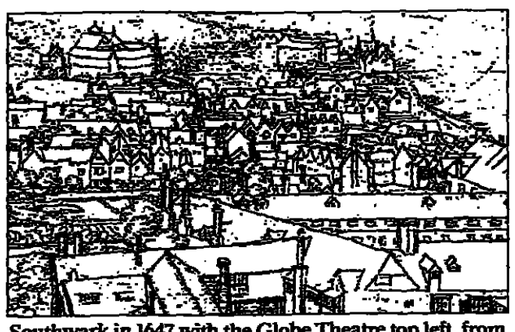
There is a serious problem with modern literary scholarship, no matter how temperate and traditional. Most of it can be read by few outside the academic audience for which it is designed. This would not matter if English literature consisted entirely of works written in a modern idiom, with a frame of cultural reference like our own. If Shakespeare were as accessible as Martin Amis, say, there would be no need to write books about him. But if anyone will try the experiment of opening their Shakespeare and seeing how many lines they can read at random without feeling lost, it will at once be apparent that time has conferred obscurity as well as dignity on him.

It should be the business of scholarship to create the conditions under which obscure works can be freshly and accurately understood. But, with a few exceptions — John Carey, Norman Stone or Oliver Sacks — modern scholars have given up trying to reach a broad, educated public.

The general effect of this is twofold. First, scholarly writing becomes increasingly longwinded, prone to spurious subtlety and remote from popular concerns. Secondly, the educated public, having long since stopped reading works of scholarship, ceases to act as a check on academic provincialism. If an error once gets into the scholarly machinery, the scale on which it will be recycled is so vast that it can take a generation or more to get it back out: witness so-called literary theory.

Most scholars are intelligent, humane individuals. Nonetheless, the number of them willing to question academic orthodoxies in a time of job-insecurity and Jacobean nepotism seems small. Inevitably, those who challenge conventional academic wisdom, whether from outraged common sense, democratic zeal, or devotion to high intellectual values, are apt to be dismissed as mavericks.

There are two basic kinds of maverick, the cautious and the impetuous. The former dissents sharply from orthodox academic opinion because, having examined the evidence, he disagrees with the way it has been interpreted. The latter blusters because he cannot be bothered to examine the evidence closely at all. Since academics are anxious to maintain power within the academy in direct proportion as they lack it outside, both the cautious and the impetuous maverick are unwelcome.



Southwark in 1647 with the Globe Theatre top left, from *Wenceslas Hollar* by Richard T. Godfrey (Yale, £29.95)

A striking example of this was afforded some years ago when Eric Sams, a civil servant and private scholar, published a polemical edition of the play *Edmund Ironside*. Well-informed laymen, such as Anthony Burgess, were "prepared to accept" Sams's attribution of this play to Shakespeare. Sceptical academics summoned him to joust in the columns of the *Times Literary Supplement*, where he was treated with as much respect as if he had been an unliterary theorist.

But Sams's dissent from the orthodox view was no puerile display of phoney radicalism. He believes that literature is important because of its relation to the rest of experience, and that reading it well is not easy. He believes, moreover, that literary competence is not an academic prerogative and that all good readers should observe the same principles of deduction, discrimination, impartiality and prudence. His fallings-out with the academic world result from the conviction that academic reasoning about Shakespeare, for all its ingenuity, is based on assumptions that have no currency in the world at large. His new book, *The Real Shakespeare*, is intended to rescue Shakespeare from an unwitting academic conspiracy of misjudgment.

Sams's first gesture of dissent is directed towards the august and unwieldly form of the academic monograph. He writes in a series of 35 short, fact-filled chapters, starting with biographical matters and moving on, in roughly chronological order, to literary ones. The relations between such topics as Shakespeare's schooling, his father's profession, the state of the texts and the rivalry of fellow-dramatists are not forced into a tidy scheme, but disclose themselves gradually and varyingly. He eschews footnotes, instead keying his quotations to a 40-page cache of documentary evidence concerning the first 30 years of Shakespeare's life. He gives the impression of a man driven by an intelligent love of his subject, eager to get at the truth, and impatient with obstructions.

Defying academic orthodoxy, he contends that Shakespeare's father was an illiterate butcher, who rose by gradual steps to become Mayor of Stratford, then suddenly fell into extreme poverty. He remained throughout his life, despite the threat of religious persecution, a devout Catholic. William Shakespeare helped his father out in the butcher's shop. He had a patchy education, leaving school with an elementary knowledge of Latin and thoroughly acquainted with only four books of the Bible. (His schoolmastering job was no more a measure of intellectual mastery than an Oxbridge MA is now.)

As regards Shakespeare's writings, the most important of Sams's claims is that the theory of "memorial reconstruction" is false. This theory (used to explain the corrupt texts in which many of Shakespeare's plays were printed) presupposes that, when stuck for a script, troupes of actors would reconstruct one from memory. In a briskly cogent chapter on the 1603 Quarto of *Hamlet*, Sams shows that some of the dodgy passages in the text are much more probably owing to printers' errors or botched authorial revisions. His unwillingness to collude with academics against actors springs from a deep respect for the past. He would sooner trust eyewitness testimony, however informal, than the authority of a consensus.

Sams has his faults and in some quarters they will be used as a pretext for ignoring his virtues. He can be prematurely decisive. He very occasionally himself relies on corroboration from congenial secondary sources. He will inevitably be charged with naivety by people who assert their sophistication by putting quotes round the second word in the title of Sams's book. Nonetheless, even though he only once mentions Arnold, he is in the great tradition of criticism which attempts to see the object as in itself it really is. He puts the blood back on Shakespeare's hands from a wish to put the plays back into circulation. Sams normalises Shakespeare and the effect is at once to exalt his genius and to explain its popular appeal.

Stephen Logan is a Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Critic, curator, teacher, traitor

David Ekserdjian

POUSSIN
By Anthony Blunt
Pallas Athene, £24.95 paperback

It is tempting to suppose that Anthony Blunt is the most hated of the Cambridge spies. The unforgivable thing about his treachery was not his hobnobbing with the Royal Family, nor even his apparent lack of remorse after his exposure, but the fact that — unlike the misfit double agent of popular legend — he was an immense success in his chosen field. In the public imagination, it is for his work on Poussin (or Poisson as *The Guardian* had it at the time of his exposure) that he was revered.

With a major Poussin retrospective on offer at the Royal Academy, this is an opportune moment to reissue Blunt's *magnum opus* on the artist, long out of print and hitherto very expensive. The original edition consisted of three sumptuous tomes, but even without the *catalogue raisonné* and with plates that are at best functional, this chunky single volume is a bargain.

Blunt was first gripped by a love of Poussin at school at Marlborough in the early 1920s (Professor Ellis Waterhouse later recalled him enthusing in the dorm). He was the presiding genius at the great Louvre exhibition of 1960, published a monograph in 1967, and went on exploring to the end. The additional bibliography here includes 15 subsequent articles by Blunt, together with an edition of Poussin's writings, and a book on his drawings, all evidence of a daunting industry.

It would be wrong to suppose, however, that Blunt had it all his own way, even when he was hailed, to quote Denis Mahon in 1960, as "the leading Poussin specialist of the present time". On the contrary, Mahon himself led the charge in suggesting that Blunt's chronology of Poussin's early period was fundamentally misconceived. In a memoir specially written for this volume, Brian Sewell records his mentor's anguished "I was wrong" in front of the pictures in the 1960 show, and implies that he published what he knew to be less than the whole truth in the big book.

In Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution*, the Blunt character says he got early Poussin wrong, but it is hard to believe that the modified position of 1967 was a conscious lie. In the sometimes acrimonious dispute in the columns of the *Burlington Magazine* in 1960, Blunt accepted some of Mahon's arguments, but added: "On certain other points, however, I remain impenitent." I, for one, would rather believe him to have been a fool (or at the least a poor connoisseur) than a knave, always assuming that our present sense of Poussin's early development is broadly correct.

More serious by far is the contention of some critics, notably Marc Fumaroli but also our own Malcolm Bull, that Blunt got the philosophy wrong. For it is in the whole presentation of Poussin as a *peintre-philosophe*, and in the crucial chapter on "Poussin and Stoicism" that Blunt made his bid to rival the intellectual seriousness of what might be described as the Warburg school of art history.



The Massacre of the Innocents, c.1627-28, from *Nicolas Poussin: 40 Masterpieces* by Pierre Rosenberg and Véronique Damian (Cassell, £17.99)

And yet, even if elegant — and convincing — demolition jobs teach us to think of a Poussin in sympathy with the Jesuits, or drawing inspiration from Rabelais, the whole edifice remains oddly secure. Blunt may have airbrushed out the sexiness of the early Bacchanals, which Yeats understood so well in "News from the Delphic Oracle", and he may have overestimated the importance of Stoic philosophy in an attempt to make his hero the outsider he felt himself to be, but he wrote a serious book about a serious artist.

What of Blunt's admiration for "the unflinching integrity which was one of Poussin's most marked characteristics" seen against the backdrop of what most of us would regard as his own world-class duplicity (and even self-delusion in the light of his continued support for the Soviet cause at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact)? It is tempting to talk of Jekyll and Hyde, or an uncanny ability to compartmentalise, but that is not to explain. We all show different sides of ourselves to different people, and it may be that Blunt simply did the same in spades.

What is clear, at any event, is Blunt's poignant understanding of the divided soul of Francesco Borromini, towards the close of his magnificent study of the architect, who tried to commit suicide by falling on his sword, botched it, and survived just long enough to dictate a confession.

With hindsight, it is impossible not to read the passage as a piece of thinly disguised autobiography: "There is in this account of his own suicide something infinitely characteristic of Borromini. To have been under a strain so violent that it drove him to this act of violence — if not of madness — and yet immediately afterwards to be able to dictate such a lucid account of the event, reveals a combination of intense emotional power and rational detachment which are among the qualities which go to make him such a great architect."

Why we are what we own

Amy Louise Erickson

EARLY MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF PROPERTY
Edited by John Brewer and Susan Staves
Routledge, £80

The 17th and 18th centuries are crucial in the formation of Western ideas about property. The editors of this massive volume do their best to relate 26 studies of the period to late 20th-century concerns, such as the reintroduction of private property in Eastern Europe: "Every day, reading the newspapers, we are reminded in one way or another how profoundly particular property regimes are expressions of particular political ideologies and how even 'personality' itself is constructed in relation to a particular regime of ownership."

These essays successfully illustrate the multiplicity of property claims in the early modern period. They make nonsense of the simplistic insistence on "absolute" property rights common to both the 18th century and the present decade, in which capitalism is popularly believed to have conquered all.

Robert Gordon's essay, "Paradoxical Property", describes the "persistent tendency to suppress and to deny the collective and collaborative elements, the necessity of mutual dependence, inherent in our common capacities to understand and regulate our social life". But none of the essays can explain *why* the idea of absolute ownership has been so important in the Western tradition since around 1700.

The most successful pieces are the more detailed studies. In the area of individual property, essays on contrasting French inheritance practices (Barbara Diefendorf), on attitudes of children other than the heir in English aristocratic families (Susan Staves), and on the personal charity of Lady Spencer (Donna Andrew) are exemplary.

In the area of commerce, discussions of animal breeding and the first cartel in genetic capital (Harriet Ritvo) and of the debate over luxury and personal conduct in the London press (James Raven) stand out. An essay on colonial Paraguay (Mario Pastore), in sharp contrast to the otherwise largely English-focused articles, looks at a state unencumbered by parliamentary considerations struggling to manipulate its peasant population to produce maximum revenue. The one art-historical contribution (David Solkin) considers the property implications of Joseph Wright's painting of the *Air Pump*.

This is a book to be dipped into, and certainly not read from front to back. The initial sections on the theory and ideology of property, though, are too abstruse to appeal to most of us. Talk of "relationality" and "inflecting discursive agendas" might be significant, but it is hard to tell in a language which has precious little meaning now and absolutely none in the 17th or 18th centuries.

Amy Erickson is the author of Women and Property in Early Modern England *(Routledge).*

Behold, the head of a martyr

John Morrill

THE REGICIDES and the Puritan Revolution
By A.L. Rowse
Duckworth, £16.99

THE TRIAL and execution of King Charles I is one of the most startling and challenging events in English history. His formal trial in Westminster Hall and his public beheading before a still and incredulous audience (or congregation?) outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall had about it an audacity that still chills or delights according to taste.

It was a good publishing idea to commission a popular, accessible account of those who sat on the High Court of Justice that determined that the King must die, and not a bad one to ask A.L. Rowse to write it. This book comes a few years after his denunciation of civil-war iconoclasm, one reviewer of which, he reminds us, was "a second-rate professor [who] thought it a work of self-indulgence. In other words, a labour of love." Of course, it is a labour of love for Rowse to hate puritans and republicans.

He asks whether "it is because professors today do not enjoy writing their books that professional works are apt to be so dull. . .They write for their own sub-culture, not for the general public." There is some truth in this assertion, I fear. But those who enjoy writing history for the general public must mediate to that public the work of those who labour at the coalface only to produce books for one another. More than a decade ago, a Dr A.W. Mackintosh showed that there were not 59 Regicides but 69. There was room for only 59 names on the foot of the death warrant, and so only 59 (two of whom were not present when the public affirmation was made) signed the warrant. Rowse's study of the 59 signers of the warrant is, then, a work of history that is a little behind the times.

Those members of the general public who are also members of an intellectual ramblers' association will find much to enjoy in this book. Each of the 59 has aspects of his life exposed and commented on, and there are innumerable pleasing diversions. Having told us that Whalley had his horse shot from under him at Dunbar, for example, Rowse goes on to say that "there was an appalling slaughter of horses — one's heart goes out to the poor creatures — in the human idiocy of these wars. So great that, later in the century, there had to be a large import of Arab horses — the Godolphin Arabian and such — to renew the best bloodstock." The logic of this passage might be questioned, but the serendipity certainly cannot be.

In short, this is what one expects from Rowse. It wears great learning lightly, it is vigorously opinionated, and in order to tell simply the truths he has known for so long, he prefers to disregard many of the discoveries of the professorial troglodytes. *The Regicides* is vintage Rowse.

Botanical whimsy

Giles Coren

THE ROSE CROSSING
By Nicholas Jose
Hamish Hamilton, £9.99 paperback original

NICHOLAS Jose is an Australian novelist and translator who spent three years in a job that sounds like a Barry Humphries punchline — cultural attaché at the Australian Embassy in Peking. He has developed, nonetheless, into a serious writer; this, his third novel, is the first to be published in Britain.

In the crowd that has gathered to watch the execution of Charles I, a face is singled out. It is Edward Popple: philosopher, royalist, horticulturist. And this is the story of his Faustian overreaching and tragic demise, intertwined with a hypothetical solution to one of the great mysteries of modern botany.

After the death of his patron, Popple courts the support of the ostensibly puritan Society of Fellows, and secures a place on a boat bound for the tropics, there to conduct his horticultural experiments, finance his philosophising, and escape the unnatural lust he feels for his adolescent daughter, Rosamund.

Unfortunately for Popple's good intentions, Rosamund stows away on the ship. When her father disguises her as a boy to protect her from the crew, we find ourselves in the Shakespearean netherworld of disguise, androgyny, and disastrous confusion of social and sexual identities. When the Popples are marooned on a tropical island, shades of Prospero and Miranda lower tempestuously.

Some time later, who should wash up on the shores of the desert island but young Zhu Taizao, Prince of Yong and last legitimate heir of the Ming dynasty. He and his ancient eunuch protector, Lou Lu, have lost their way on a trip to Rome. The result is a meeting of minds and cultures, the creation of a hybrid rose (for Lou Lu, too, is a breeder), loss of innocence and virginity, and rampant sexual jealousy.

The novel's discursive centre is rooted, quite reasonably, in the 17th century. But questions of the nature of sovereignty, authority, and the right of man to interfere with Divine Providence seem strangely inert in a modern novel. In England it is all monarchy versus Parliament, decree versus debate, science versus God. And when a shipboard mutiny generates cries of "the men are the ship" countered by "the captain is the ship", 17th-century ideas of nationhood are examined in microcosm.

The island becomes a playground for the acting out of similar conflicts of loyalty, but little is added to the prognostications of Shakespeare, Defoe and William Golding in the presentation of social forces at work in the absence of society. Were there the mimicry of a Peter Ackroyd, this might pass for a pastiche period document, but its structure and language are so modern that the novel ends up with a personality crisis as pathological as that of the androgynes, Rosamund and Lou Lu.

THE BOOK'S strength — for it is a solid story deviously unravelled — is its seductive play on the margins of real history. The modern rose is descended from a hybrid, a cross between a European and a Chinese flower, found on an island in the Indian Ocean



An alchemist (1582) from *The Mirror of Alchemy* (British Library, £22.50)

more than 200 years ago. This is the tale of how it might have been born, a fictitious background to botanical truth. Were we told this at the beginning, in a prologue perhaps, the story's historical irony would be weightier, and readers might better understand what Jose is trying to do.

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Is Bambi carnivorous?

Ian McIntyre on a portrait of the Labour leader, who has yet to be tested in battle



Rite of passage: Tony Blair as the unsuccessful Labour candidate at the Beaconsfield by-election in 1982, with the late John Smith

The Archie Andrews grin is less broad than it was *seven months ago*. Understandably so — the Rt Hon Anthony Charles Lynton Blair is fast discovering that being leader of the Labour Party is no laughing matter. Harold Wilson told an early biographer it was like driving a stagecoach: "If you rattle along at great speed everybody inside is too exhilarated or too seasick to cause any trouble. But if you stop everybody gets out and argues about where to go next."

Rattling along at speed is easier in government than in opposition. It is now 16 years since Labour sat on the Speaker's right hand. The Liberals had been denied office for just such a political eternity when Lord Rosebery made his "clean slate" speech in 1901: there are in what Blair is telling Labour today echoes of that celebrated warning: "There are men who sit still with the fly-blown phylacteries of obsolete policies bound round their foreheads who do not remember that while they have been mumbling their incantations to themselves, the world has been marching and revolving."

Rosebery's patrician detachment was reinforced by his authority as a former Prime Minister. Blair's position is different. Win or lose against the Clause Four neanderthals, he must then prepare for battle with the Tories. The schedule could be tight, and dangerous for a man who has never been tested as a leader on the hustings, nor seriously roughed up by the tabloids. Jon Sopel quotes a colleague after a bumbling performance by the Conservative Party chairman: "Isn't it amazing how this shambolic lot of fools turn themselves into a ruthless killing machine come an election?"

Sopel's book is part biography, part potted history of Labour. He sketches Blair's schooldays (his Fettes housemaster remembers him as "intensely argumentative") and his time at Oxford (he found it "rather stifling", took no part in undergraduate politics and strutted, Jagger-like, in a band called the Ugly Rumours).

In the department of ugly rumours about Blair himself, Sopel enters a nil return. The fact that Tony Booth, the "scouse git" in *Till Death Us Do Part*, is his father-in-law is probably worth a few sympathy votes, and his admiration for the Scottish philosopher John Macmurray is a decided advance over Neil Kinnock's devotion to Gramsci. He may yet regret Labour's much-trumpeted network of contacts with the American Democrats, but his personal reputation seems secure. "The trouble with Tony Blair," sighed one Tory minister, "is that he is Bill Clinton with his flies done up!"

When Blair entered Parliament he was slapped on the back by Edward du Cann, who mistook him for one of the Tory horde swept in by their landslide victory. He has come far in those 12 years. His 1983 election address promised that Labour would create two million jobs in five years, scrap Trident and negotiate a withdrawal from the EC — "which has drained our natural resources and destroyed jobs". The Labour leader is apparently rather sheepish if reminded about this today; Sopel is not entirely convinced by his explanation that it was dashed off by a party worker and that Blair himself never saw the proofs.

TONY BLAIR
The Moderniser
By Jon Sopel
Michael Joseph, £15.99

Blair's promotion to Labour's front bench was the most rapid since David Owen's. With the help of a flow of leaked documents from unprincipled civil servants, he did well in battle with Cecil Parkinson over electricity privatisation.

Sopel pays close attention to his subject's credentials as a moderniser, or rather to when he actually became one. He quotes Michael Howard, who reminded him that in the debates on the 1984 Trade Union Act, Blair argued against pre-strike ballots: "The gulf between what he now says were his private thoughts and what he said in public is actually rather significant and important."

Sopel can turn a good phrase — Gerald Kaufman is "a man who could start a fight in an empty room" — but there are more opaque passages, too, as when we read that Labour are "now deliberately placing their policies at the fulcrum of British politics". Occasionally there are signs of hasty writing or slipshod research — he has Blair making "a final peroration" and he credits Harold Wilson with five election victories instead of four. An alert editor should have challenged the meaningless assertion that the presentation of Labour's 1987 election campaign was "an extraordinary success" — as if that presentation could somehow be divorced from the party's devastating defeat. Sopel paints, in passing, an entertaining picture of Peter Mandelson and his appalling talent for media manipulation. Blair should arrange for him to be offered the modern equivalent of a colonial governorship.

Nor has he eluded the elephant trap of Northern Ireland simply by ditching the republican-sympathising Kevin McNamara. His successor, Mo Mowlam, is best known for her idea that the Queen should do bed and breakfast, and for her "Bimbos for Bambi" initiative during the leadership contest. If the Unionists bring John Major down and Labour goes into an election still saddled with a conference resolution to work for a united Ireland, Tony Blair will find himself turning slowly on the Central Office spit, tastefully garnished with his own modernising credentials.

Radical star dragged down by sleaze

John Grigg

THE LOST PRIME MINISTER
A Life of Sir Charles Dilke
By David Nicholls
Hambledon Press, £25

Baronets form an interesting sub-species in our political history. One, Sir Robert Peel, was an important Prime Minister, as well as progenitor of the modern Conservative Party and (through his disciples) of the Liberal Party. There have been radical mavericks such as Sir Francis Burdett in the early 19th century and, more recently, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Sir Oswald Mosley and Sir Richard Acland. On the right two baronets in the present century have been regarded as potential prime ministers: Sir Edward Boyle and Sir Keith Joseph (both later ennobled). For a brief period in the 1880s a left-wing Liberal baronet, Sir Charles Dilke, was similarly regarded.

Along with his title Dilke inherited great wealth: Yet he had the industry and drive of a man with his own way to make in the world. In 1868, when he was in his middle twenties, he published a travelogue-cum-political tract, *Greater Britain*, based upon a world tour, which established his reputation. In the same year he was elected MP for his home seat of Chelsea, which he held until 1886. Later he represented the Forest of Dean, from 1892 until his death in 1911.

Though early republicanism (subsequently modified) did him no favours with Queen Victoria and raised doubts about his fitness for office, by 1880, when Gladstone's second ministry was formed, his claims could not be denied and he was appointed Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. He did very well in the job and after two years was promoted to the Cabinet as president of the local government board, in which post he served with equal success. He and his friend Joseph Chamberlain were the twin radical stars of the ministry, and at the time of its fall in 1885 his prospects for the future seemed to many brighter than Chamberlain's.

Unfortunately for him, and perhaps for the country, he had no future in government, because the following year he was cited as co-respondent in the Crawford divorce case. Though he asserted his innocence, and never ceased to maintain it, the outcome of the case was equivocal and his name was never cleared. In those days a politician's career was blighted if he was seen as having broken his own or somebody else's marriage. Otherwise neither the press nor the State concerned itself with his private life. (This was a harsh code, but preferable to the moral confusion and indiscriminate prurience of our own time).

The official life of Dilke, published in 1917, hardly referred to the scandal that ruined his career. In 1958 Roy Jenkins, fated to become another lost prime minister, made amends in his *Sir Charles Dilke: A Victorian Tragedy*, in which six chapters (out of 19) are devoted to the Crawford case. David Nicholls acknowledges his debt to Jenkins, but suggests that his book does less than justice to Dilke's political role, more especially in his later years. Nicholls also has a few new things to say about the Crawford case, to which, however, he gives only two chapters (out of 18).

So far as this is concerned, Nicholls's version agrees in all essentials with Jenkins's. Both show Mrs Crawford's confession, implicating Dilke, to have been a tissue of falsehood, and both offer similar partial explanations of her strange conduct, while remaining ultimately mystified. Both are convinced that Dilke was substantially innocent as charged (by her), though both feel, as Jenkins puts it, that his "general pattern of life" may not have been "nearly so innocent as his relationship with Mrs Crawford".

A shade of difference appears in their attitude to the theory that Chamberlain may have encouraged her to accuse his close friend, who was also his most serious rival. On this matter Nicholls produces two new pieces of evidence, which seem ambiguous but which he interprets favourably to Chamberlain. On balance, his account may leave most readers less suspicious of Chamberlain, though Jenkins, for his part, never positively endorses the suspicion. Both agree that Chamberlain benefited


Dilke: in Gladstone's footsteps

from his partnership with Dilke, the radical pair being stronger as such than either partner could hope to be on his own.

Nicholls does Dilke a service by drawing attention to his admirable stand against the Aliens Bill in 1904-5, and in general gives a full, fair and most interesting account of his political career. Would he have been the right man to lead the Liberal Party after Gladstone? Certainly he would have been better than Rosebery, but then so would almost anyone else. Compared with Campbell-Bannerman, the next Liberal Prime Minister after Rosebery — who, by the way, disliked him — Dilke had the edge in knowledge and dynamism, but was less in the Liberal mainstream, because his radicalism was combined with a streak of jingoism. (He had much to do with the armed intervention in Egypt in 1882.) He was also, as Nicholls admits, a man of considerable arrogance. In opinion and temperament, he was less suited than Campbell-Bannerman to the task of uniting a party.

Neither man had Chamberlain's panache, but Chamberlain was lost to the Liberal Party through Gladstone's monomaniac obsession with Irish Home Rule. On this issue Dilke supported Gladstone, though with many reservations. Gladstone was infinitely more to blame than Mrs Crawford for the Liberals' long exile from power at the turn of the century.

John Grigg is a biographer of Lloyd George and author of The Thomson Years, *Volume 6 in* The History of The Times.

Heave-ho to Novgorod

Anne McElvoy

VOLGA, VOLGA
By Lesley Chamberlain
Picador, £15.99

The Volga is one of the world's great rivers, but not a triumph of the Almighty's design. Sandy and shallow, its natural tendency is to pull vessels into the bank, making it difficult to navigate and prone to flood. The current is sluggish and subject to unpredictable reversals. Very Russian, the Volga.

Even those Russians who have never seen the kremlin at Nizhny Novgorod (far more imposing in its starkness than the overdressed Moscow version), or watched caviar sturgeon churn in an orgy of fecundity at the mouth of the Caspian Sea, believe that the river provides the essence of national identity.

But it is also a hostage of the terrible 20th century in Russia. The creation of the Great Volga, linking Moscow to the six seas by means of canals dug with forced labour, was a brute exercise in national ambition. It blights one of the world's richest landscapes with hydro-electric stations, dams and industry.

Lesley Chamberlain, who once worked for Reuters in Moscow and has since been a subtle observer of the Communist collapse in Eastern Europe, sets off in search of the historical and cultural roots of the Volga in a clapped-out pleasure-boat, named the *Nikolai Chernyshevsky* after a 19th-century Utopian thinker. Endowed with a library containing only his books, it is a nostalgic reminder of Big Soviet Mama's insistence on proselytising her children at every turn. On the deck the prosperous New Russians, treating the journey as a sort of smash-and-grab shopping trip in the provinces, prefer the pirated translations of James Hadley Chase.

The food is awful, the craft barely seaworthy, her shipmates resentful and unenlightening. Even the good souls are distracted by their own painful readjusment to post-Soviet life. Still raw from the wounds of Communism, Russia is ashamed of its state, but unwilling to take advice on its convalescence from outsiders. At one point a woman, tired of the ritual dissection of her country's woes over the dinner table bursts into tears, sobbing like an exhausted, peevish child: "But I love my country."

Chamberlain's prose is spare, at times jerky, but her voice is always original. Combining journalistic skills with careful research and imaginative flair, she extracts the condition of post-Communist Russia from the shell of everyday experience and detects the historical and cultural resonances of the Volga lands, with their stiff Russian merchant towns, former Tatar fiefdoms and traces of the "lost peoples" — the Mongols, Germans and Kalmyks who colonized the lower reaches of the plains.

Such richesses aside, sailing the Volga can be excrutiatingly boring — as I can vouch, having been moored on it for three days one winter in Lenin's birthplace, Simbirsk. But the author puts tedium to good use, by examining the roots and uses of boredom as a defining feature of Russian culture.

"By their patience, the people of Russia are great," said Nekrasov, which is looking on the bright side. Chamberlain has the Westerner's impatience with the Slavic cult of suffering. Does Russia produce political upheavals as a form of entertainment, as "the ultimate antidote to political boredom" she muses, recalling the peculiar combination of disinterest and alacrity with which thousands of Muscovites, oblivious to the danger, hurried to the White House during Boris Yeltsin's 1993 bombardment, to observe the civil strife.

Most importantly, the author never loses sight of the fact that her views of Russia are glimpsed through the veil of Western culture. I was relieved, after a spate of "Russians are just like us" books since 1991, to read one which acknowledged and explored the differences, including the unwelcome feeling of primness which assails foreign observers of the general squalor. Free too of the opposing baggage of Slavophilia, she despairs frankly of the lack of public honesty, the constant shifting of goalposts, conceptual trickery and "historically unhinged quality" of the country.

The result is a sad, enlightening book about the trauma which underlies Russians' deep love for their homeland. Theirs is a disabling melancholy which no amount of totalitarian engineering could dispel, and which has so far proved immune to the efforts of post-Communist reformers too.

Mysteries of Islam's birthplace

Karen Armstrong

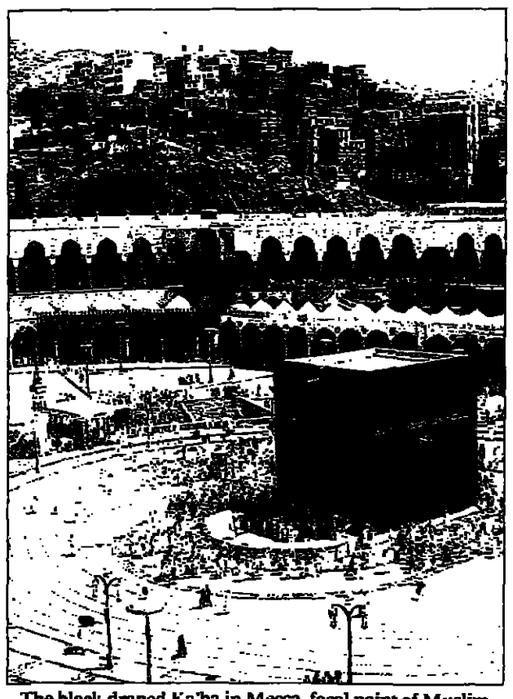
MECCA
A Literary History of the Muslim Holy Land
By F.E. Peters
Princeton University Press, £24.95

EUROPEANS have long been fascinated by Mecca and Medina, the two holiest cities of the Islamic world, even though — or, perhaps, because — they have for centuries been closed to non-Muslims. Since the time of the Crusades some have sought to break this taboo, notably the 19th-century travellers John Burckhardt and Richard Burton. Mecca has come to symbolise any place that is held to be supremely sacred or any passionately desired destination.

F.E. Peters is well placed to satisfy our curiosity. He has made a lifelong study of the sacred topology of the Near East and has written prolifically on Jerusalem, Mecca and the practice of pilgrimage in the three monotheistic religions. In this history of Mecca, he carefully attempts to separate fact from legend, tracing the city's probable origin as a pagan shrine in the pre-Islamic period and its subsequent position as the centre of the Muslim world.

He dwells particularly on what Westerners would call the profane history of Mecca and gives a valuable overview of the city's political and commercial fortunes until the Arab revolt of 1916 and the foundation of the Saudi dynasty. He quotes so extensively from contemporary sources that the book reads more like an anthology than a chronicle by Peters himself. He points out that, since there has been virtually no archaeology at Mecca, the historian has to rely on written evidence; yet his scrupulous reticence makes his work rather lifeless.

The result is that the reader gains little sense of Mecca's special quality. The city remains as inaccessible as ever. Perhaps this is inevitable, since Peters has presumably not visited it. It could be said that the book is informative rather than illuminating, were it not that basic information seems to have been withheld.


The black-draped Ka'ba in Mecca, focal point of Muslim pilgrimages, from *The Mosque* (Thames & Hudson, £36)

There are crucial questions which Peters, for reasons best known to himself, entirely fails to address.

What, for example, is the significance of the Black Stone set in the wall of the Ka'ba, the shrine at the centre of the Meccan *haram*? What is the meaning of the ancient rites of the *hajj* (pilgrimage) and how have they continued to yield a profound religious experience? Why did the early caliphs forbid non-Muslims to enter their holy land? What place does the holiness of Mecca hold in the lives of Muslims today?

AN IMAGINATIVE discussion of these issues would throw light on the Islamic conception of sacred space, which should surely be the underlying theme of any history of Mecca. Peters may have discussed these matters in his previous books but their absence here remains a serious flaw. It is particularly unfortunate at a time when sensitivity about their holy places has risen to the forefront of the religious consciousness of Jews, Christians, Muslims and Hindus. The preservation of peace in such places as Israel, the occupied territories and India could well depend on a sensitive understanding of the spiritual and psychological importance of sacred geography.

Karen Armstrong's A History of God *is now available in Mandarin paperback.*

WEEKEND BOOKS

American obsessions: Hunter S. Thompson's debunking of Clinton; Charles Handy, the latest management guru; chic-simple lifestyles and cynical thrillers

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A display of all that is fine



Last year, a February Fine Art and Antiques Fair was added to those in June and November — and its success meant that this year it is repeated.

Joseph Connolly describes its diversity

UNTIL last year, the Fine Art & Antiques Fair was staged biannually, in June and November at Olympia in London. However, in 1994 an extra fair in February was added and was so successful that it is back again this year at Olympia — and somehow the organisers have contrived to make it bigger, better, and even more diverse than before.

The fair is one of the brightest fixtures in the collectors' and antique dealers' calendar. It is the insistence of top quality in the different fields on show that ensures that people may buy with trust and confidence: a panel comprising senior members of the British Antique Dealers' Association, the London and Provincial Dealers Association, individual specialists, museum curators, and academics guarantees the accuracy of all identifications, dates, and provenances.

So what can the visitor to the fair expect? Actually, a display of the finest of a variety of movements and periods. In the field of ceramics, for instance, Gerald Sattin will be showing a complete *Sèvres* tea service, c.1885, superbly and seductively painted with portraits of 18th-century beauties of the French Court — against a royal blue background and gorgeously embellished with red and green enamel, within gilt and turquoise frames (£12,500).

By way of contrast, Anita Besson is bringing fine examples of work by 20th-century master potters, Hans Coper and Lucie Rie, while Lucy Johnson will be offering a rare Dutch delftware birdcage, c.1730, this most unusual item is generously decorated with embossed florettes. There is also an extremely rare blue-and-white transfer-printed lady's bed chamber pot of 1825, shaped — for reasons best known to it's makers, John and William Ridgeway — like a bottle: this is from Gillian Neale, at £595.

As ever, some truly fine furniture is being offered, much of it 18th-century. Outstanding is a Queen Anne walnut double-domed bureau cabinet from Brian Rolletson, c.1710, and priced at £26,000. More excellent 18th-century English furniture is being shown by Michael Lipitch (exhibiting at the fair for the first time), including a magnificent bookcase after Chippendale, c.1775, in mahogany with a satinwood inlay (£115,000), and a highly unusual card table, c.1790. This piece — made in yew, and of superb colour — opens into a six-leaf clover shape (£24,000).

Altogether different is an imposing pair of Gothic Revival oak bookcases, c.1870, offered by Peter Farlow at £29,000, together with a stunning Gothic Revival dresser, made of oak and pine for the 1867 Paris Exhibition. The dresser, known as the Elements Cabinet and attributed to Heaton, Butler and Bayne, is finely carved with profuse Gothic ornament, incorporating 18 painted panels with gold leaf background depicting the elements, the seasons, and English fruits: £35,000.



A DAZZLING selection of jewellery is on show, ranging from a "Charles II" diamond and crystal badge from Edward A. Nowell (these badges were worn by members of the 18th-century Caroleon societies — monarchists all) to 1950s and 1960s sapphire rings by Van Cleef & Arpels (inset, left and above: £22,500 and £14,500, respectively) from Hancocks. Then there is a very elegant set of gold Fabergé bridge pens, one for each suit. The four are offered at £8,500 by Shapiro, who also offer a carved Fabergé duckling, in its original case, at £6,500.

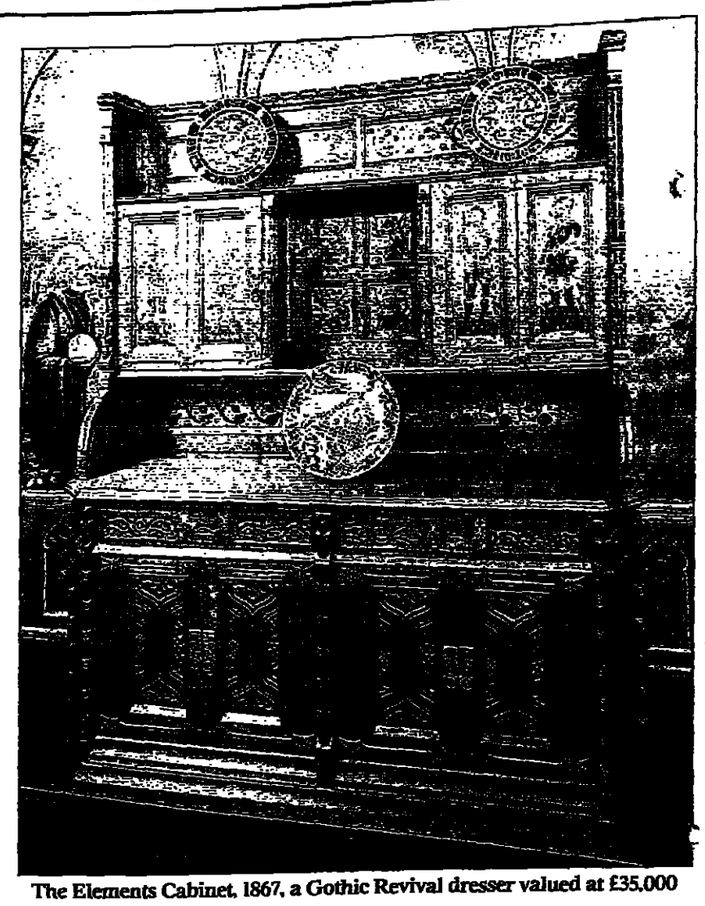
Some elated collector might wish to celebrate his latest acquisition with one of the most singular items on offer this year: a magnum of 1811 Napoleon Cognac — in a two-part moulded bottle with wax seal to cork and complete label: £1,450, from Bacchus Gallery.

The fair last February hosted an exhibition devoted to the life of Jane Austen: this year, carrying on the tradition, there is an opportunity to see a truly fine John Constable exhibition. The centre-piece will be the 45 "Constable/Lucas" mezzotints depicting the English landscape — so called because the mezzotints were based on paintings by Constable and engraved by David Lucas under Constable's close supervision.

In addition there are Constable's letters to his wife and children, and also romantic artefacts: the artist's paintbox and brushes, mahlstick, sketching chair, portfolio, and table easel. The all-encompassing nature of the collection is summed up by the presence of Constable's christening robe, and his death mask: a first-rate exhibition.

Also on show: ten life studies (in pencil and oil), 24 drawings, two portraits in oil, and six water colours — in addition to several works drawn from collectors which have never before been seen or published. Altogether, an excellent Fine Art and Antiques Fair.

● *The Fine Art & Antiques Fair is at the Olympic Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5. Opening times: Tuesday, February 14 to Friday, February 17, 11am-8pm. February 18, 11am-6pm, February 19, 11am-5pm. Admission £5.*



The Elements Cabinet, 1867, a Gothic Revival dresser valued at £35,000

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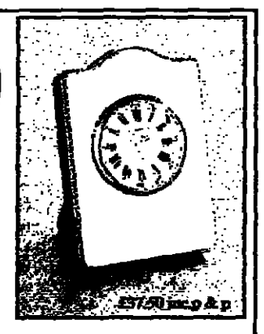


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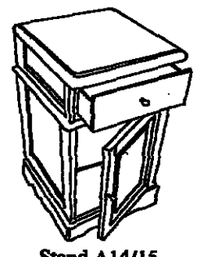
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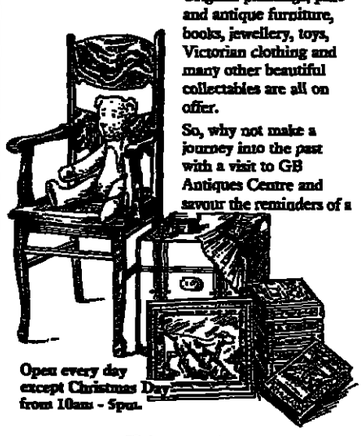
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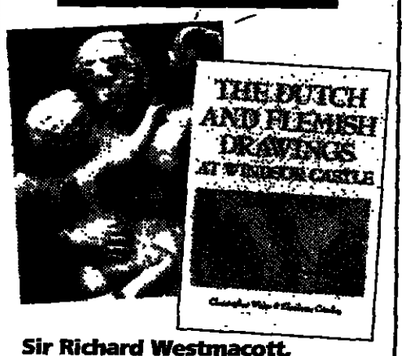
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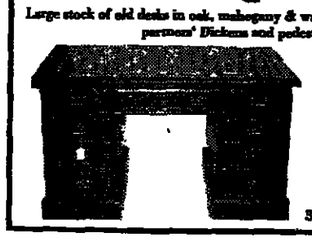
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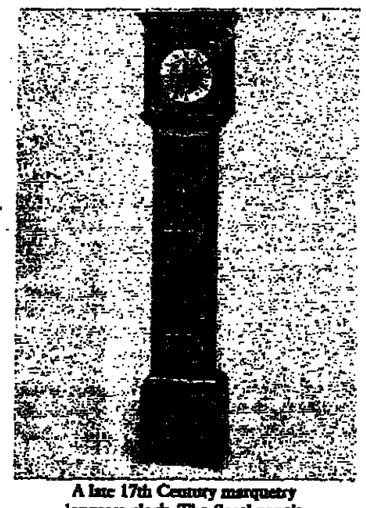
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'Cockatoo by Luise Scherf for Nymphenburg'

Until recently, only connoisseurs collected Republic porcelain. **Joseph Connolly** on 20th-century treasures

How we can share China's best-kept secret



PETER WAIN, the Shropshire-based oriental ceramics specialist, is devoting his entire stand at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair to what he claims is the finest collection of early 20th-century Chinese porcelain ever to have come onto the market. "The collection is a good mixture of vases, brushpots, plaques and sealpaste boxes," Mr Wain says, "and among them are some of the very best pieces I have ever seen."

Rather surprisingly, 20th-century — or Republic — Chinese porcelain has until recently been overlooked by both collectors and institutions. Up until just five years ago, Mr Wain says, extremely fine pieces could be bought cheaply. "I put this down to snobbishness," he says. "Even the best was dismissed as just modern, and therefore worthless. It was only two or three years ago that Sotheby's agreed to handle it at all."

This would explain how Michael Kaynes-Klitz came to form this peerless collection: he was working with the Hong Kong Government in the 1960s, and so small was the interest in Republic porcelain that he was free to select the very finest early examples for very little cost. The current selling exhibition of 50 pieces is collectively priced at £100,000, and represents just half the total (the remainder Mr Wain will sell later in the year).

Despite Mr Wain's assurance that there are only about a dozen serious collectors of Republic porcelain in Britain — and maybe only as many as 200 worldwide — he is confident of great interest in this collection, as museums and individuals slowly awake to the potential. "Last May in my shop in the depths of Shropshire, I mounted the very first selling exhibition of Republic porcelain in the UK — and despite the fact that the shop was due to open at 11am, I had people from all over the country — some had flown in from abroad — queueing up at four in the morning. Among them was a representative of one of the few enlightened institutions, the Victoria and Albert Museum: it has a very nice collection now."

Despite the fact that this field of collecting appears to be the best-kept secret of the 20th century, supply of the truly fine pieces is scarce. "The main markets for Republic porcelain are Hong Kong and Taiwan," Mr Wain says. "The Chinese are very keen to buy back their heritage, and they have a sense of history and an instinctive feel for quality and so they always buy the best.



£890 box with yellow, pink and blue flowers

"It has to be said that the vast majority of 20th-century Chinese porcelain is simply mass produced rubbish. Almost all of the pieces in this exhibition will have been made to order — much of it before the Second World War — and always by the very best workshops and painters."

The world war itself is just one reason — along with two civil wars, a Japanese invasion and the Cultural Revolution in this most tumultuous century of China's history — why, Mr Wain says, the great kilns have been in operation for only 25 of the past 95 years.

This accounts for why these days — provided the quality is there — nothing can be too modern. According to Mr Wain, the finest master potter now working in China, Zhai Rang, has a four-year waiting-list for his work, and charges between $5,000 (about £3,200) and $10,000 for each piece. In the light of this, some of the items of early Republic porcelain for sale at Olympia seem reasonably priced.

A small, circular white sealpaste box, delicately decorated with yellow, pink and blue flowers (pictured) may be had for only £890, while a slightly larger example — gloriously decorated in a multi-coloured *mille fleur* design — is £860. An elegant, cylindrical brush pot depicting a traditional snow scene, highlighted in enamel and bordered in brilliant blue, is just £980. The finer and rarer pieces, of course, are considerably more expensive: particularly striking is a beautiful "Gu" shaped vase of about 1920 with a perfectly plain overglaze in what is called "cosmetic red" — actually deep raspberry. This — the only undecorated piece in the collection, and all the more stunning for that — is £3,900; other prices range from £980 up to £6,800 for the star of the show. This piece (Mr Wain's own favourite) is a square vase very finely decorated with four exquisite landscape paintings by an unknown artist (pictured, right); quite as fine is a pair of semi-eggshell cylindrical vases (one is inset, left) painted by the artist Xing Fanxian — delicately depicting scenes from the life of the poet Su Shi (£6,700).

"Collectors of the future, will come to see the 20th century as one of the finest and most important in the history of Chinese porcelain. Of course, Ming is perfection, and you cannot improve upon perfection — but the very best Republic porcelain is its equal," Mr Wain says.

● *Peter Wain will be exhibiting the Kaynes-Klitz collection at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair, details on opposite page. A fully-illustrated colour catalogue is available from Peter Wain (01630 647 118) £5 at the fair, £10 including post and package.*



Vase with landscape paintings by an unknown artist

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Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, suggests wider responsibility for Illingworth

England failure could bring end to Fletcher's role

The lessons of this winter's tour of Australia, harsh and unpalatable as they will be to the complacent element in English cricket, are embodied by the contrasting experiences of John Crawley and Greg Blewett. Personable young batsmen of similar age, background and temperament, they happen to belong to disparate cricket systems. And it has shown.

Blewett has chanced upon stardom, benefiting from the one-sided expedient of the Australia A team to claim a Test place, score two centuries and exude the maturity of one who has been prepared for cricket of quality, not quantity. He will head to the Caribbean, next month, confident in his ability to prosper.

Crawley is a year older, but has played immeasurably more cricket. Stardom has long beckoned him. He has come, however, through a system that condones mediocrity and bad habits, and, having arrived on his first senior tour as a flag-bearer for a better future, has seen his batting technique and fielding immobility exposed.

Thankfully, Crawley is not the type to shelter behind a name and a reputation. Long before he was dismissed for nought in each innings of the final Test, he had pledged to go home and intensify his approach to batting and fitness. "I need to make some fundamental changes if I am ever going to be better than an average player at Test level," he said.

Admirable attitude though this is, the self-confessed shortcomings of our brightest young batsman do not bode well. Michael Atherton, the England captain, believes that it is only by a heavy investment of patience and loyalty in youth that the prospects of the national team can be improved. But, if the young men identified for such long-termism are found to be flawed, or poorly prepared ... what then?

There is no simple answer to this, for it is a question that invokes the unhelpful philosophies of many state schools and the jealous parochialism of certain counties. But it also, inevitably, reflects upon the people responsible for the England team and it is with them that any assessment of this winter tour must begin.

When, a year ago, Raymond Illingworth was preferred to M. J. K. Smith for the vacant post as chairman of selectors, enthusiasm for the advent of a wise, forthright and unambiguous professional was tempered by the scope for conflict. It was perfectly obvious that he would want to run the England team his own way, which seemed to ask serious questions about the roles of Atherton and, particularly, Keith Fletcher, the team manager.

Captain and chairman have managed to co-exist. It has not always been a close and cordial relationship — how could it be when Illingworth has carped from afar as he did in such untimely fashion just before this series? — but there is a mutual regard which will see them through. There has to be a captain, after all, and, having reluctantly decided that he can no longer do the job himself, Illingworth perhaps sees something of his own style in Atherton.

Chairman and team manager have rather less in common. Indeed, even the painted smiles and platitudes between them have given way, on this tour, to ill-disguised sniping.

> 'Fletcher still has the affection of the players but can no longer relate to the majority of them'

The situation became ludicrous one day in Sydney when Illingworth announced that Neil Fairbrother would be joining the party and Fletcher, a few minutes later, irritably responded that nothing had been decided. Fletcher was angry because protocol had been breached and because his own duties had been undermined. Illingworth was bemused because he was simply being his usual, autocratic self. On that day, it became clear that this team is not big enough for both of them.

It is scarcely likely that Illingworth's portfolio will be withdrawn after 12 months. He has made mistakes, whether he admits them or not, for he has seldom known when, and to whom, he should stop talking. His protected position on the selection panel, wherein he has the guaranteed support of his own nominees, Fred Titmus and Brian Bolus, must also be changed. But his position remains strong and, arguably, can get only stronger.

Fletcher is midway through his five-year contract. It is an agreement that is beginning to appear a personal negotiating triumph as the chances increase that he will not see it out. This winter, he has become an ever more nondescript figure, and although he has not lost the affection of the players, he can no longer relate to the majority, nor they to him. If youth is to be the way ahead, Fletcher is not the man to supervise it. The Test and County Cricket Board now has to take a difficult decision, for a change, and pay up the remainder of his contract.

There would be many candidates to take over, but, with Bob Woolmer claimed by South Africa, none who have compelling credentials. The solution is to put Illingworth in overall charge, obliging him to manage overseas tours and be fully accountable. The priority is to identify precisely who is working with the captain at the helm.

Atherton's input to this tour has been immense, partly in his monumental batting defiance but not least in his refusal to offer excuses, when some were readily available. Injuries plagued the touring party to an unprecedented degree, so that six replacements were summoned and, of the XI who played in the final Test, only eight had been chosen for the trip.

Those who went home included Darren Gough, who took 20 wickets in three Tests, treated the Sydney crowd to his exhilharating batting style and charmed everyone he met. The prospect of watching him against West Indies this summer is enticing.

So, too, is the thought of Graham Thorpe taking on the their fast bowlers in the fashion he has developed here. In his last seven Tests, Thorpe has scored almost 700 runs, always with dash and often with brilliance. Atherton believes that he can be the mainstay of the batting for years to come. High praise indeed.

Playing the last two Tests without Graeme Hick and the last three without Alec Stewart was a savage blow, but the bowling was similarly disrupted. Not one of the specialist bowlers played all five Tests, and it now needs a stretch of the memory to recall that the attack in Brisbane, back in November, was led by Martin McCague.

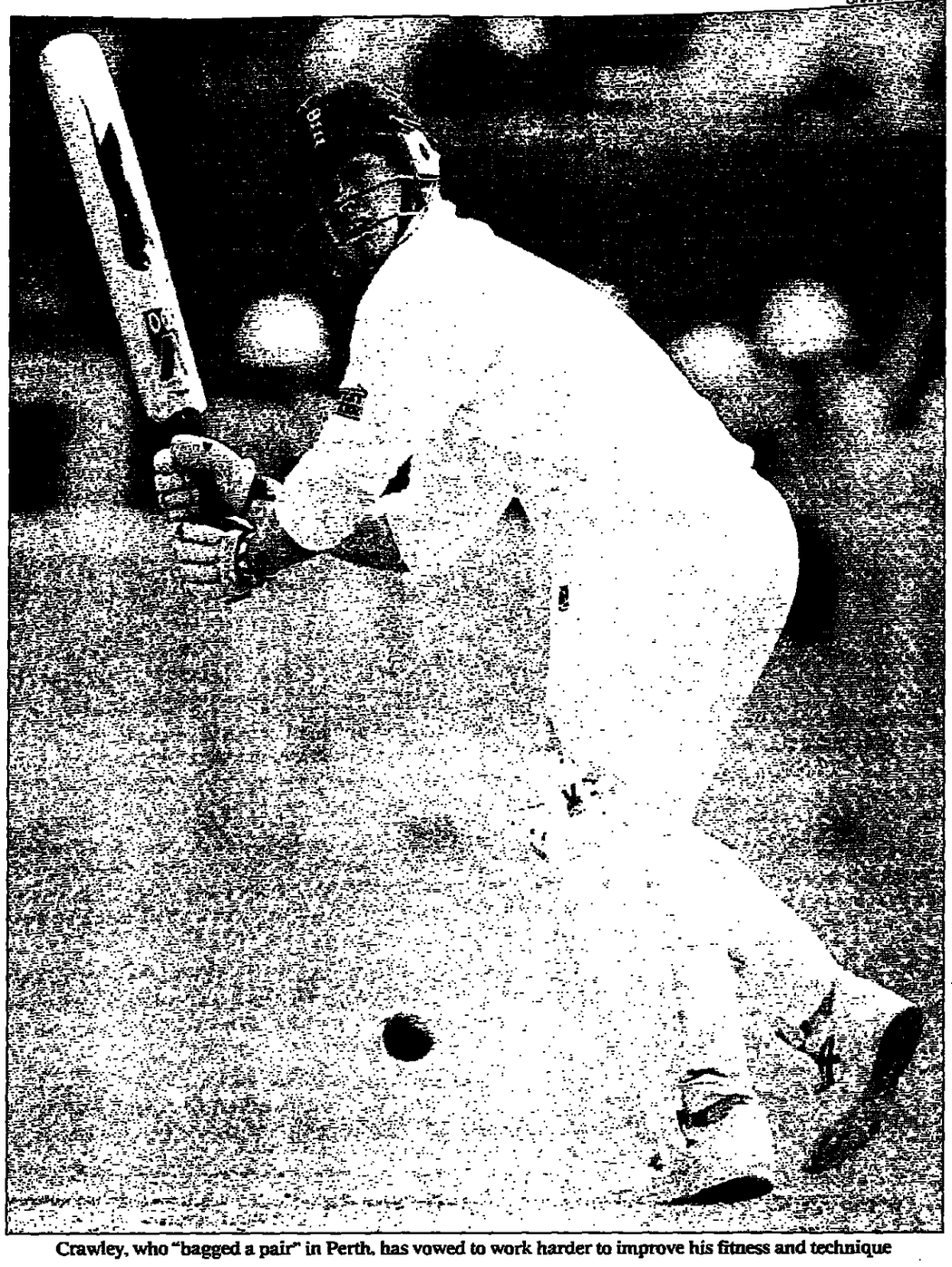
If he was one misguided selection, then so too was Joey Benjamin, the invisible presence of the tour. Even when the injury dilemma was at its deepest, there seemed no threat of Benjamin making the Test team, which was some achievement.

Devon Malcolm bowled with great heart, yet ended with insulting figures on the one pitch that really suited him. Angus Fraser demonstrated why he should have been in the original side, and might easily have concocted victory on the final afternoon in Sydney, but Phillip DeFreitas was unsuited by the bland surfaces and seldom looked the bowler he had last summer.

Steve Rhodes was another disappointment, possibly the most striking of all. He batted dismally and kept wicket sketchily, but it is not necessarily the end for him, because he still has supporters in high places; but it may be for Philip Tufnell, whose effectiveness as a slow bowler was restricted to the negative and whose demeanour on and off the field continued to grate and alienate.

What Tufnell did achieve was a startling improvement in his fielding. It stood out, because England generally were so woeful in this aspect. The knowledge of this, and their contribution, helped to persuade Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting to retire and to hasten the brave new world. Just how brave and how new we wait to observe.

GRAHAM MORRIS



Crawley, who "bagged a pair" in Perth, has vowed to work harder to improve his fitness and technique

FIRST-CLASS TOUR AVERAGES

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
G A Hick	8	15	1	877	172	62.64	3	3	16
A J Stewart	5	9	4	291	101*	58.20	1	1	3
G P Thorpe	10	20	3	756	123	44.47	1	5	9
J P Crawley	9	15	2	563	91	43.30	—	6	3
M A Atherton	10	20	1	765	88	39.73	—	6	6
G A Gooch	10	19	0	685	101	36.05	1	5	3
M W Gatting	9	16	1	532	203*	35.46	2	1	5
C White	3	5	0	125	46	25.00	—	—	2
D Gough	5	8	2	114	51	19.00	—	1	5
C C Lewis	2	4	0	68	40	17.00	—	—	3
P A J DeFreitas	7	13	1	180	88	15.83	—	1	2
S J Rhodes	11	19	2	240	50	14.11	—	1	40/6
A R C Fraser	4	6	1	60	27	12.00	—	—	1
D E Malcolm	8	12	4	91	29	11.37	—	—	1
S D Udal	2	4	0	30	16	7.50	—	—	1
M J McCague	4	5	1	29	16	7.25	—	—	3
J E Benjamin	4	4	0	11	7	2.75	—	—	1
P C R Tufnell	9	13	7	12	4*	2.00	—	—	5

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: M R Ramprakash 72, 42 (2ct).
* denotes not out

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i/10m
C C Lewis	78.5	13	249	11	22.63	4-24	— —
D Gough	222.5	44	688	26	26.46	6-49	2 —
C White	60.5	10	195	7	27.85	3-13	— —
D E Malcolm	340.3	55	1133	34	33.32	6-70	1 —
M J McCague	125.2	21	487	14	34.78	5-31	1 —
P A J DeFreitas	299.1	67	852	24	35.50	4-60	— —
A R C Fraser	157.5	30	504	14	36.00	5-73	1 —
P C R Tufnell	384.2	70	1018	27	37.70	5-71	1 —
G A Gooch	27	7	79	2	39.50	1-5	— —
J E Benjamin	105.5	23	341	8	56.83	2-36	— —
S D Udal	81.5	4	345	5	69.00	2-85	— —
G A Hick	61	8	224	2	112.00	1-11	— —

ALSO BOWLED: M A Atherton 2-0-6-0, G P Thorpe 2-1-6-0, M R Ramprakash 19-1-74-0.

☐ Source: TCCB/PA Cricket Record

COMPLETE TOUR RESULTS

October 25
ULAC HILL: ACB Chairman's XI 232 (49.2 overs; R T Ponting 82, D Gough 5-32); England XI 236-3 (47.2 overs, G A Gooch 128, G P Thorpe 61 not out). England XI won by 7 wickets

October 27
PERTH: Western Australia 248-5 (50 overs; M P Lavender 83, D R Martyn 51); England XI 197 (45.5 overs) Western Australia won by 51 runs.

October 29, 30, 31, November 1
PERTH: England XI 245 (M A Atherton 68, B A Reid 4-71) and 393-6dec (G A Hick 172, G A Gooch 68, J P Crawley 67 not out). Western Australia 238 (M Goodwin 91, M R J Veletta 67; D E Malcolm 6-70) and 272-5 (M Goodwin 77, M P Lavender 51; P A J DeFreitas 4-60) Drawn.

November 4, 5, 6, 7
ADELAIDE: South Australia 102 (M J McCague 5-31) and 480 (J D Siddons 121, J A Brayshaw 101, P C Nobes 72, I T Nielsen 52; D Gough 5-143); England XI 323 (G A Hick 101, G P Thorpe 80, G A Gooch 50; P E McIntyre 4-48, S P George 4-114) and 262-6 (G A Gooch 101, M W Gatting 56) England XI won by 4 wickets

November 9
CANBERRA: England XI 143 (46.3 overs); Prime Minister's XI 144-8 (47.4 overs) Prime Minister's XI won by 2 wickets

November 12, 13, 14, 15
NEWCASTLE: England XI 328 (G A Hick 73, J P Crawley 71, G P Thorpe 67; B E McNamara 4-50) and 244; New South Wales 365 (M A Taylor 150, M E Waugh 80, D E Malcolm 4-81) and 211-6 (M J Slater 94). New South Wales won by 4 wickets.

November 18, 19, 20, 21
HOBART: Australian XI 385-7dec (D R Martyn 103, R T Ponting 71, S G Law 68, G S Blewett 53, M N Atkinson 51 not out); England XI 209 (G A Gooch 50, S J Rhodes 50, M G Hughes 4-51) and 207-1 (A J Stewart 101 not out) Drawn

November 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
BRISBANE: First Test match: Australia 426 (M J Slater 176, M E Waugh 140, M A Taylor 59; D Gough 4-107) and 248-8dec (M A Taylor 58; P C R Tufnell 4-79); England 167 (M A Atherton 54; C J McDermott 6-53) and 323 (G A Hick 80, G P Thorpe 67, G A Gooch 56, S K Warne 8-71) Australia won by 184 runs

December 2
BOWRAL: Bradman XI 205-4 (50 overs; J L Ambrger 79). England XI 208-6 (48.5 overs; J P Crawley 91 not out). England XI won by 4 wickets

December 4
CANBERRA: England XI 253-6 (50 overs; M A Atherton 53 retired, A J Stewart 53, G A Hick 50). Australian Capital Territory 153 (42.2 overs; D Gough 4-19) England XI won by 100 runs

December 6
SYDNEY: World Series Cup: Australia 224-4 (50 overs, D C Boon 64 not out, M A Taylor 57, M J Slater 50); England 196 (48.3 overs; M A Atherton 60). Australia won by 28 runs.

December 10
NORTH SYDNEY OVAL: England XI 231-4 (50 overs; G A Hick 118, G P Thorpe 82). Australian Academy 234-5 (48.2 overs; I J Harvey 80, R J Baker 57). Australian Academy won by 5 wickets.

December 11
NORTH SYDNEY OVAL: England XI 245-7 (50 overs, M A Atherton 95, M W Gatting 62); Australian Academy 249-9 (43.1 overs; B J Hodge 96 not out, R M Campbell 57). Australian Academy won by 6 wickets.

December 13
MELBOURNE: World Series Cup: England 188-9 (50 overs); Australia A 157 (45.5 overs, J L Langer 55) England won by 31 runs.

December 15
SYDNEY: World Series Cup: Zimbabwe 205 (49.3 overs; G W Flower 84, D L Houghton 57, D Gough 5-44); England 192 (49.1 overs, G A Hick 64) Zimbabwe won by 13 runs.

December 17, 18, 19, 20
TOOWOOMBA: England XI 507-6dec (M W Gatting 203 not out, J P Crawley 91, A J Stewart 53 not out, G A Gooch 50) and 236-8dec (J P Crawley 63; D Tazelaar 4-58); Queensland 392-4dec (A Symonds 108 not out, J P Maher 100 not out, S G Law 91) and 314 (M L Hayden 119, T J Barsby 101; P C R Tufnell 5-71). England XI won by 37 runs

December 24, 26, 27, 28, 29
MELBOURNE: Second Test match: Australia 279 (S R Waugh 94 not out, M E Waugh 71, D Gough 4-80) and 320-7dec (D C Boon 131); England 212 (G P Thorpe 51, S K Warne 6-64) and 92 (C J McDermon 5-42). Australia won by 295 runs.

January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
SYDNEY: Third Test match: England 309 (M A Atherton 88, J P Crawley 72, D Gough 51; C J McDermott 5-101) and 255-2dec (G A Hick 98 not out, M A Atherton 67); Australia 176 (D Gough 6-49) and 344-7 (M A Taylor 113, M J Slater 103; A R C Fraser 5-73). Drawn.

January 7
BRISBANE: World Series Cup: England 200-8 (50 overs; G P Thorpe 89; Zimbabwe 174 (48.1 overs; G J Whittall 53, A Flower 52). England won by 26 runs.

January 10
MELBOURNE: World Series Cup: England 225-8 (50 overs; G A Hick 91; G D McGrath 4-25); Australia 188 (48 overs; I A Healy 56; A R C Fraser 4-22). England won by 37 runs.

January 12
SYDNEY: World Series Cup: Australia A 264-5 (50 overs; G S Blewett 113, M G Bevan 105); England 235-9 (50 overs). Australia A won by 29 runs

January 20, 21, 22, 23
BENDIGO: Victoria 246 and 334-8dec (B J Hodge 104, M T G Elliott 73); England XI 329 (G A Hick 143; P R Reiffel 4-83) and 139-1 (M A Atherton 59 not out) Drawn.

January 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
ADELAIDE: Fourth Test match: England 353 (M W Gatting 117, M A Atherton 80) and 328 (P A J DeFreitas 88, G P Thorpe 83, J P Crawley 71; M E Waugh 5-40); Australia 419 (G S Blewett 102 not out, M A Taylor 90, I A Healy 74, M J Slater 67) and 156 (I A Healy 51 not out, C C Lewis 4-24, D E Malcolm 4-39). England won by 106 runs

February 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
PERTH: Fifth Test match: Australia 402 (M J Slater 124, S R Waugh 99 not out, M E Waugh 88) and 345-8dec (G S Blewett 115, S R Waugh 80, M A Taylor 52); England 295 (G P Thorpe 123, M R Ramprakash 72) and 123 (C J McDermott 6-38). Australia won by 329 runs.

Summary of results
Test matches: played 5, won 1, lost 3, drawn 1
World Series Cup: played 6, won 3, lost 3
Other first-class matches: played 6, won 2, lost 1, drawn 3
Other one-day matches: played 7, won 3, lost 4.
All matches: played 24, won 9, lost 11, drawn 4

Ijaz leads recovery after early strike by Streak

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN recovered from losing three wickets in 18 balls to Heath Streak, the fast bowler, to build an 86-run first innings lead in the second Test match against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo yesterday. Pakistan, 63 for four after Streak's burst, fought back to reach 260 all out at the close of the second day.

Streak, 20, with a haul of nine for 105 in Zimbabwe's historic first Test victory in the opening match of the series, had Pakistan on the ropes during the morning session. Having removed Shakeel Ahmed for five on Tuesday evening, Streak picked up three more wickets for just five runs.

At the start, Pakistan looked in control as Aamir Sohail, dropped off the last ball on Tuesday night, and Rashid Latif, the nightwatchman, looked comfortable against Streak and David Brain. They put on 38 for the second wicket. The breakthrough came with the last ball of the eleventh over, when Streak found some extra bounce and Rashid, who had made 17, edged a catch to Andy Flower behind the wicket.

The first ball of Streak's next over accounted for Sohail. He shuffled in front of his stumps to be leg-before for 26. Salim Malik survived the hat-trick ball as he wafted outside off stump, but Basit Ali, after being in for 32 minutes without scoring, fell to the Streak sucker punch when he hooked a short ball straight to Bryan Strang at backward square leg.

However, a well-crafted fifth-wicket partnership of 70 in 90 minutes between Salim and Ijaz Ahmed redressed the balance. Salim looked well set until, aiming a big drive through the covers, he got an inside edge on to his stumps to give Streak his fifth wicket.

Ijaz played circumspectly — although dealing with the loose ball with his familiar efficiency — as he added 79 in 101 minutes with Inzamam-ul-Haq. Inzamam played much more fluently for his 47, including seven fours and one six, until he was given out leg-before to Guy Whittall — a decision the batsman found hard to believe.

Shortly afterwards, Bryan Strang, the left-arm fast medium bowler who is making his debut, was rewarded for some tight bowling when he collected the wickets of Wasim Akram, Ijaz and Manzoor Elahi in the space of 24 balls.

Ijaz made 76 from 173 balls with eight fours and a six. His innings ended disappointingly when he took a big heave at Strang and the ball spun off the bottom edge and back on to his stumps. Streak finished with five for 70 from 26 overs.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 174 (A D R Campbell 60)

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Aamir Sohail lbw b Streak	26
Shakeel Ahmed lbw b Streak	5
†Rashid Latif c A Flower b Streak	17
*Salim Malik b Streak	0
Basit Ali c B Strang b Streak	44
Ijaz Ahmed b B Strang	76
Inzamam-ul-Haq lbw b Whittall	47
Wasim Akram c Dekker b B Strang	1
Manzoor Elahi c A Flower b B Strang	13
Kabir Khan not out	8
Amir Nazir b Brain	7
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 2 nb 7)	16
Total	260

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-47, 3-52, 4-63, 5-133, 6-212, 7-226, 8-231, 9-246
BOWLING: Streak 26-5-70-5; Brain 15-4-49-1; B Strang 23-10-44-3; Whittall 15-3-42-1; P Strang 15-4-48-0.
Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and O Goosen (Zimbabwe)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

HAKUTO (UK) INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 1 February 1995 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and M Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members. The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to M Fishman, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 27 February 1995. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 16 March 1995 he intends to make a first and final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 27 February 1995 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full. Date: 3 February 1995 M FISHMAN Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

MAXIM'S LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 83rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place at 12 noon on Friday 10 February 1995 at Espace Pierre Cardin, 1 Avenue Gabriel, Paris 8fel, France. All proxies received at the Company's Head Office at 3 Rue Royal, Paris 8fel, France or the Registered Office at Barry House, 20-22 Worple Road, London SW19 4DH, not later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting will be accepted. DATE: 9th February 1995. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD J.Y.R. Strover FCA Secretary Barry House 20-22 Worple Road Wimbledon London SW19 4DH

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION NO 377 of 1995
IN THE MATTER OF AEROSPACE ENGINEERING p.l.c. and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 23rd day of January 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Capital of the above-named Company from £11,794,744 to £4,186,000 and the cancellation of the sum standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard by Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on the 22nd day of February 1995.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of Share Capital and cancellation of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED the 7th day of February 1995
Messrs Edge & Ellison
Rutland House
148 Edmund Street
Birmingham
B3 2JR
Solicitors for the Company

PUBLIC NOTICES

DEL TUFO, Lady KATHARINE MARY,
Chadlagh, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, died 30th April 1994; particulars to Biddle & Co, Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7BU, before 10th April 1995.

MARKBOROUGH PROPERTIES (UK) LIMITED
Company No: 1069689
HBA (WAREHOUSE SERVICES) LIMITED
Company No: 1180447
PROTHOFIN LIMITED
Company No: 413740
ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that the Liquidator of the above-named companies intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, R Smith, KPMG Peat Marwick, 20 Farringdon Street, London, EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 10 March 1995, which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make a final distribution and that such a distribution will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: the companies are able to pay all known creditors in full
R Smith
Liquidator
Dated: 2 February 1995.

Rule 4.106 of 7 lb Insolvency Act 1986
Matol Botanical GB Limited (IN LIQUIDATION)
TAKE NOTICE THAT WE, Nigel John Hamilton-Smith and Michael William Young of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD were appointed Joint Liquidators of Matol Botanical GB Limited by a resolution at the meeting of creditors held on 3rd February 1995. Dated this 3rd day of February 1995 Nigel John Hamilton-Smith and Michael William Young Joint Liquidators.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
- AND -
IN THE MATTER OF NIAS BODY CENTRES LIMITED NIAS OF LONDON ROAD LIMITED
ORECHAN HOLDINGS LIMITED (ALL IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 46(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the UNSECURED CREDITORS will be held at The Centre Court Hotel, Centre Drive, Chessington, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 8FY on the 24th day of February 1995 at 2.30 pm for the purpose of receiving a report covering the background to and progress of the receivership together with other matters stipulated by Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986.
The meeting is not for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the companies.
Please note that a person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if the provisions of Rule 3.11(1) Insolvency Rules 1986 have been complied with, namely that:
(1) he has given to the Joint Administrative Receivers at the offices of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, SO14 3QG, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the Company, and has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11(2)-(7) Insolvency Rules 1986 and
(2) there has been lodged with the Joint Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Copies of the Receivers' report will be provided after the meeting, free of charge to all creditors who write to the Receivers at the above address.
The only motion to be put before the meeting is the appointment and constitution of the receivership creditors' committee under Section 49 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Dated this 3rd day of February 1995
D J Meehan
Joint Administrative Receiver
Nias Body Centres Limited
Nias of London Road Limited
Orechan Holdings Limited

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344
OR
FAX: 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Stemp launches triumphant finale

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICHARD STEMP, the England A No 11, hit his second ball for six and his fourth ball for four to secure a thrilling one-wicket win against India A in Chandigarh yesterday. The remarkable victory in the third international match, which completed a 3-0 series whitewash, was followed by scenes of wild celebration from the young England A players.

Richard Johnson, who was 33 not out at the end, and Min Patel — unfortunate to be given out leg-before for 15 — also contributed to the tailend heroics after England A had resumed on 146 for eight with a further 31 runs needed.

However, it was Stemp, 27, the Yorkshire spin bowler, who delivered the final blows before marching off towards his team-mates with bat raised aloft. Stemp said: "It was a lap-slog for six, and pure instinct. My philosophy is if it's up there, it's there to slog. Winning this match is a huge feeling. I am sure we are going to be painting the town tonight — and we are a natural team, more so than any side I have ever played in."

Alan Wells, the England A captain, said: "Stemp's shot for six came out of his own coaching manual, but it was a brilliant effort by the three players this morning. We never expected Johnson to be a hero with the bat, and to win this series 3-0 is better than anything I anticipated before the tour began."

After greeting Stemp and Johnson in the dressing-room, the England A players set off on a lap of honour, dancing with delight around the near-deserted stadium.

Yet Wells's side deserved its moment of joyful eccentricity. This victory, more so even than those at Bangalore and Calcutta, was achieved against the odds. Wells had lost the toss in each of the internationals, giving the home side an added advantage to go with their superior knowledge of local conditions.

At Chandigarh, a rapidly-deteriorating pitch made England's fourth-innings target of 177 a difficult one. Yesterday morning, Patel edged one ball short of slip and survived a loud appeal for leg-before before being given out while attempting a clip to leg. Yet his ninth-wicket partnership with Johnson had been worth 41 runs, taking England A tantalisingly close to their target.

Johnson's first scoring stroke of the day was an edge through the slips for four off the seam bowling of Paras Mhambrey. But then, the Middlesex fast bowler, 20, raised spirits in the England camp by straight-driving Utpal Chatterjee, the left-arm spinner, and Kanwaljit Singh, the off spinner, for further boundaries. In total, Johnson faced 72 balls during 1½ hours at the crease, scoring six fours.

Stemp went in with only nine runs required for victory, but any thoughts that he would try to yield the strike to Johnson were dispelled when his second ball from Chatterjee was hoisted high over the square-leg boundary.

A single from the next ball, the last of the over, showed the confidence of Stemp, who then finished the match in commanding fashion by clattering a delivery from Mhambrey through extra cover to conclude England A's encouraging campaign.



Johnson: crucial innings

SCOREBOARD

INDIA A: First Innings 229 (R Dravid 69; G Chapple 4 for 60).
Second Innings 156 (A A Muzmumbar 55; Chapple 5 for 38).

ENGLAND A: First Innings 209 (P L K Mhambrey 4 for 63).

Second Innings

J E R Gallian c Ganguly b Chatterjee	9
N V Knight c Shamshed b Singh	21
D L Hemp c Dravid b Singh	6
*A P Wells b Singh	23
P N Weekes st Vaidya b Singh	38
D G Cork lbw b Chatterjee	7
†K J Piper c Vaidya b Chatterjee	1
G Chapple c Shamshed b Mhambrey	12
R L Johnson not out	33
M M Patel lbw b Chatterjee	15
R D Stemp not out	11
Extras (lb 3, nb 1)	4
Total (8 wkts)	179

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-37, 3-38, 4-81, 5-92, 6-108, 7-108, 8-127, 9-168.
BOWLING: Mhambrey 15.1-5-34-1; Ganguly 5-2-9-0; Chatterjee 33-12-71-4; Singh 29-14-49-4; Padmanabhan 4-0-13-0.
Umpires: K Parthasarthy and P R Choudhary.

Impressive Martha's Son waits for Aintree

By Richard Evans, racing correspondent

DO NOT expect David Nicholson or the official handicapper to agree, but Martha's Son is now the bookmakers' choice as the best two-mile chaser in the land after extending his unbeaten record over fences to nine with a scintillating victory in the Comet Chase at Ascot yesterday.

"He would unquestionably be even money favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham, if he was in the race," Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes said after watching the Tim Forster-trained eight-year-old win the grade one race most authoritatively.

Unfortunately the horse's absence from Cheltenham means the prospect of a mouth-watering clash against Viking Flagship to determine the two-mile chasing crown is unlikely to take place this season. While Viking Flagship, trained by Nicholson, will attempt to win the Queen Mother Chase for the second successive year next month, Martha's Son waits for the Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree over 2½ miles.

Michael Ward-Thomas, joint-owner of Martha's Son, explained: "We made the decision to miss Cheltenham a long time ago. He is quite a small horse with a light frame and we just didn't fancy running him with 12 stone on his back up and down those hills. He jumps rather flat but after seeing him going around here today you begin to wonder, but we will never know."

As Howe Street, Coulton and Amtrak Express took turns to lead, Rodney Farrant waited patiently with Martha's Son at the rear of field before easing nearer to the front five fences from home. From that point it was only a question of when Farrant decided to make a winning move. After touching down in front three fences out, Martha's Son quickly had Coulton and Amtrak Express hard at work as he opened up a decisive lead before going on to win by seven lengths.

"He never came off the bridle and, judged on that performance, you would have to think he is about the best two-miler around. Every time I have ridden him since his novice days he has just got better," Farrant said.

Before yesterday's race, Christopher Mordaunt, the senior National Hunt handicapper, had Martha's Son rated 9lb inferior to Viking Flagship. "Martha's Son has beaten Coulton, who is on 145, so I will not move him up very much, probably two or three pounds," he said.

The success of Martha's Son and the withdrawal of Callisoe Bay, Oliver Sherwood's top hurdler, from his intended race due to the heavy going rather deflated a day which had been billed as a dress rehearsal for the Cheltenham Festival.

To make matters worse, Martin Pipe, the Nicholashayne trainer, appears to have taken exception to something said or written about him in the media and is going through one of his phases when he can hardly bring himself to speak to racing journalists.

The cause of his unhappiness is believed to be a Channel 4 item on Encore Un Peu, the horse which led to Pipe being fined £750 by the Jockey Club under the "non-triers" rule, along with speculation about the wellbeing of Valfinet, his Arkle Chase contender.

Whatever the reason for his dissatisfaction, his behaviour is, at best, unnecessary and, at worst, harmful. Racing not only provides Pipe with a handsome living but, in his hour of need, the sport backed him to the hilt when he came under fire in the infamous Roger Cook programme.

With racing now part of the entertainment industry, he not only has a duty to play his part but also to inform the public about the wellbeing, or otherwise, of his big-race horses. It is to be hoped the differences can be resolved before the Cheltenham Festival, covered by Channel 4.

On a happier note, Tom Jenks celebrated his first day back in the saddle after a nine-day ban by making all on Sweet Duke in the Reynoldstown Chase.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Her Honour, left, has Mudahim in her sights jumping the last flight before capturing the three-mile Stanlake Hurdle at Ascot

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Northern Saddler (4.00 Huntingdon)

Next best: Garrylough (3.10 Wincanton)

Sponsors granted expansion of logos

COMPANIES seeking to sponsor horses will have a more visible profile for the televised National Hunt festivals at Cheltenham and Aintree.

The British Horseracing Board (BHB) yesterday announced that they have reached agreement with television broadcasters and the Independent Television Commission to increase logo sizes and sites on owners' colours from March 1.

This will allow owners a new 32 square inch site on the chest area, plus an additional collar site. There will also be greater flexibility over the shape of logo sites on owners' rugs or blankets and attendants' clothing.

Lee Richardson, BHB's marketing director, said: "We expect these changes to be available from March 1, but wanted to make the industry aware of these new opportunities as soon as we could. We hope this will particularly help those who are targeting sponsors for Cheltenham and Aintree."

Since the Sponsorship Framework for Racehorse Owners scheme was launched last June it has generated over £600,000, covering over 500 horses.

Richardson added: "We said we would keep the framework under review when we launched it and have responded to feedback from interested parties."

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

1.40 Lightening Lad. 2.10 Special Account. 2.40 Sandrift. 3.10 Go Ballistic. 3.40 Young Hustler. 4.10 Mighty Frolic. 4.40 Scotby.

Brian Beel: 4.10 Mighty Frolic.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.40 GILLINGHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,756: 2m) (11 runners)

101 0143F4 GROUND NUT 14 (CD,S) (Mrs R Haslens) R Buckler 5-12-0 G Supple (7) 98
102 020322 KEEP ME IN MIND 19 (CD,S) (P Tory) N Mitchell 6-11-12 S Curran 98
103 101301 THE CAUMRUE 14 (CD,G,S) (On The Ran Partners) G Balding 7-11-10 A P McCoy 98
104 2F310-0 NEMURO 89 (D,G) (J Moldoon) D Elsworth 7-11-8 L Aspell —
105 2013-11 LIGHTENING LAD 28 (CD,G,S) (R Peterson) J King 7-10-8 T Jenks
106 11-005 THE EXECUTOR 14 (F) (J Joseph) M Pipe 5-10-7 D Burrows (4) 90
107 U011-FU MYRTILLA 42 (CD,F) (R Long) A Turnell 6-10-5 D Fortt 94
108 0310-5P WEE WINDY 23 (G) (W Gale) J Gifford 6-10-2 P Hide 97
109 05-0550 J BRAND 1 (D,G,S) (T Pasquale) R Hodges 8-10-0 J Harris (7) 94
110 P0500-6 BALLYMGYR 28 (Mrs R Kavanagh) S Mellor 6-10-0 Chris Webb 60
111 00/F34/ SAINTE MARTINE 883 (D Hodges) B Millman 8-10-0 D Salter —

Long handicap: J Brand 9-12, Ballymgyr 8-11, Sainte Martine 8-2.

BETTING: 7-2 The Caumrue, 4-1 Keep Me In Mind, Lightening Lad, 6-1 The Executor, 7-1 Ground Nut, 10-1 J Brand, 12-1 Wee Windy, 14-1 others.

1994: AAL EL AAL 7-9-10 N Parker (4-1) P Hobbs 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KEEP ME IN MIND 12l 2nd of 7 to Try Again in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy). THE CAUMRUE beat Fontanays ¾l in an 11-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft) with GROUND NUT (9lb better off) 22l 4th and THE EXECUTOR (9lb better off) 2¾l 5th. LIGHTENING LAD completed double beat Merlins Dream 2½l in 19-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good). THE EXECUTOR 42l 12th of 17 to Morstock in conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) penultimate start with THE CAUMRUE (15lb worse off) 1l 13th. MYRTILLA best effort last term beat Smart In Sable 1½l in 7-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (firm). BALLYMGYR 23l 6th of 18 to Oats N Barley in novice handicap hurdle here (2m 6f, good).
Selection: KEEP ME IN MIND

2.10 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £4,250: 2m 5f) (14 runners)

201 2041-11 SPECIAL ACCOUNT 117 (F,G,S) (T Fiorillo) C Barwell 9-11-10 A Maguire
202 21F345 MAGSOOD 42 (G) (Pipers Partnership) J Mullins 10-11-3 S Curran (3) 78
203 32-PF12 ROAD TO FAME 84 (BF,G) (Miss E Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 8-11-3 M Dwyer 96
204 1F12U3 ROCKY PARK 12 (S) (Mrs T Geake) G Balding 9-11-3 A P McCoy (3) 95
205 P5-0330 CHIAROSCURO 26 (S) (C Price) C Price 9-10-10 R Bellamy —
206 04110-P COURT MELODY 96 (BF,G,S) (M Coburn) P Nicholls 7-10-10 C Maude —
207 00/U0PP CROSA'S DELIGHT 7 (B) (S Jones) A Jones 8-10-10 L Harvey —
208 2/3041P GROUSEMAN 24 (B,BF,G,S) (Aquarius) Miss H Knight 9-10-10 M A Fitzgerald —
209 266P/3 KIFUE FLATS 24 (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 8-10-10 J Osborne 78
210 F/24BP- MANAMOUR 257P (W Rosell) R Lee 8-10-10 J R Kavanagh —
211 /P/PP4 ROCQUAINE 42 (G) (B Scriven) B Scriven 9-10-10 Mr B Pollock (7) —
212 2/51/PF SAN FERNANDO 71 (S) (Mrs S Embiricos) J Gifford 9-10-10 P Hide —
213 00-5F LANDSKER MISSILE 14 (Mrs J Watts) M Pipe 6-10-5 J Lower 80
214 1/54002- SUPER MALT 293 (F,G,S) (F Allison) B Meehan 7-10-5 B Powell —

BETTING: 9-4 Special Account, 3-1 Road To Fame, 9-2 Rocky Park, 7-1 Grouseman, 8-1 Court Melody, 10-1 San Fernando, 12-1 Landsker Missile, 14-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

SPECIAL ACCOUNT, completed double, beat Cokenny Boy 10l in 10-runner Stratford novice chase (3m, good). MAGSOOD 37l 4th of 8 to Cragg Boreen in Taunton novice handicap chase (3m, good to soft) penultimate start. ROAD TO FAME 3½l 2nd of 12 to Mad Thyme in course and distance novice chase (good) with ROCKY PARK (6lb worse off) fell 3 out. ROCKY PARK 29l 3rd of 10 to Smith's Band in Cheltenham novice handicap chase (2m 5f, heavy). GROUSEMAN beat Just Rosie 6l in 10-runner Exeter handicap hurdle (2m 2f, soft) penultimate start with CHIAROSCURO (13lb worse off) 4l 3rd.
Selection: SPECIAL ACCOUNT (nap)

2.40 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,742: 2m 6f) (21 runners)

301 104 STRONG GROVE 41 (CD,BF,G) (Roach Foods Ltd) O Sherwood 7-11-0 J Osborne
302 0-0451 TINA SPARKLE 28 (S) (The Baguettes) Mrs D Haine 6-11-0 N Mann 71
303 A HANDFUL OF FUN (Mrs J Froome) S Mellor 7-10-7 Chris Webb (7) —
304 0P ANOTHER RUDRY 51 (R Barwell) C Barwell 6-10-7 B Clifford —
305 05/503- BLACK H'PENNY 336 (K Britten) J Old 7-10-7 T Grantham 83
306 364-UPP BOURNEL 28 (V) (N Bowden) C Barwell 7-10-7 Mr Richard White (7) —
307 006-5 GAME DOMINO 59 (B Edgeley) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 5-10-7 A Tory 65
308 3-F33P0 LANDSKER PRYDE 38 (Mrs J Watts) M Pipe 6-10-7 D Burrows (7) 89
309 0 LITTLE DASI 28 (Mrs A Birchenhough) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-7 J R Kavanagh —
310 50 MALFORD MADAM 7 (R Hawker) R Hawker 5-10-7 Lorna Vincent 61
311 0-0 POLLYTICKLE 24 (A Whiting) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-7 C Maude —
312 044 PURBECK POLLY 29 (H Perry) R Alner 5-10-7 Mr P Henley (7) 71
313 5P-P224 RAISIN TURF 44 (BF) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 6-10-7 A Maguire 77
314 0/40-U06 RENT DAY 28 (D Bare) J Mullins 6-10-7 S Curran (3) —
315 3-5532 SANDRIFT 24 (I Southcott) Miss H Knight 6-10-7 M A Fitzgerald 98
316 00-50 STICKY MONEY 33 (Mrs D Jenks) M Pipe 7-10-7 J Lower —
317 263-F0P STORMY SUNSET 45 (Mrs J Dennis) W Dennis 8-10-7 NON-RUNNER —
318 0 SWING QUARTET 98 (A Armitage) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-7 T Jenks —
319 45-42 TARTAN MOSS 26 (J Charlton) P Hobbs 6-10-7 Peter Hobbs —
320 0/52 WADSWICK COUNTRY 34 (A Jones) A Jones 8-10-7 L Harvey 90
321 000- WIN A HAND 302 (BM Ryall) B Ryall 5-10-7 S McNeill —

BETTING: 7-2 Strong Grove, 4-1 Sandrift, 5-1 Raisin Turf, 7-1 Tina Sparkle, Wadswick Country, 10-1 Tartan Moss, 12-1 Landsker Pryde, 14-1 others.

1994: BRIEF GALE 7-11-0 D J Murphy (10-11 fav) J Gifford 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

STRONG GROVE best effort this term 1¾l 2nd of 10 to Going Around in novice hurdle over course and distance (good) with LANDSKER PRIDE (7lb better off) 15l 3rd and BOURNEL (7lb better off) 7¾l 3rd of 6 unseated rider 1st. BLACK H'PENNY 7¾l 3rd of 6 to Makes Me Goosey in novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, soft) March 1994. PURBECK POLLY 15½l 4th of 14 to Persistent Gunner in novice hurdle here (2m, good) on penultimate start with MALFORD MADAM 10l 5th. RAISIN TURF 4l 2nd of 17 to Sister Stephanie in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start with GAME DOMINO 28½l 5th. SANDRIFT ½l 2nd of 15 to Kael Row in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good) with POLLYTICKLE 71½l 11th.
Selection: STRONG GROVE

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.10 PREMIERE NATIONAL HUNT AUCTION NOVICES HURDLE (£11,200: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

401 25-11 BIG STRAND 33 (S) (E Jones) M Pipe 6-11-8 J Lower 87
402 00-2123 BEATSON 42 (S) (Mrs E Gardiner) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 T Jenks 68
403 58-385 JIBBER THE KIBBER 26 (J Hinchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4 G Bradley 88
404 060-11P SHINING LIGHT 19 (G,S) (Deeley Partnership) D Nicholson 6-11-4 A Maguire 81
405 600-411 NOW YOUNG MAN 73 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Mitchell) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-2 N Doughty 77
406 1-1 OTTOWA 22 (D,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 5-11-1 C Maude 92
407 10-2322 PUNTERS OVERHEAD 50 (BF,S) (J Hutchinson) M Pipe 7-11-1 J Osborne 79
408 5453-14 ORSWELL LAD 27 (BF,S) (R Wright) P Hobbs 6-10-13 Peter Hobbs 83
409 00-1335 LEAD VOCALIST 40 (S) (Capt A Pratt) R Rowe 6-10-12 M Perrett 94
410 2-21322 GARRYLOUGH 27 (BF,G) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-10-10 M Dwyer 95
411 2-50313 GO BALLISTIC 27 (BF,S) (Mrs B Lockhart) J O'Shea 6-10-9 M A Fitzgerald

BETTING: 7-2 Go Ballistic, 4-1 Big Strand, 5-1 Garrylough, 6-1 Ottowa, 7-1 Beatson, 8-1 Shining Light, Punters Overhead, 10-1 others.

1994: GOSPEL 5-10-10 C Llewellyn (11-1) N Twiston-Davies 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BIG STRAND beat Forbidden Time 14l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (3m, soft). SHINING LIGHT beat Shimba Hills 3l in 12-runner Exeter novice hurdle (2m 2f, good) penultimate start. NOW YOUNG MAN beat Manetha ½l in 14-runner Kelso novice hurdle (3m 6f, good). PUNTERS OVERHEAD 6l 2nd of 5 to Even Flow in Southwell novices' handicap hurdle (2m 4f, soft). ORSWELL LAD 6¾l 4th of 12 to Rosina Mae in Ascot novices' handicap hurdle (3m, good). GARRYLOUGH ¾l 2nd of 19 to King Lucifer in Ascot novice hurdle (2m 4f, good) with GO BALLISTIC (6lb better) 1¾l 3rd. Earlier 5l 2nd of 8 to Berude Not To in grade I Challow Hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, heavy) with LEAD VOCALIST (3lb better off) 20l 5th.
Selection: GO BALLISTIC

3.40 RACING IN WESSEX CHASE (£6,873: 2m 5f) (6 runners)

501 36/1P-25 BLAZING WALKER 27 (D,F,G,S) (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 11-12-0 M Dwyer 81
502 B6-1544 YOUNG HUSTLER 12 (C,D,F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-0 T Jenks
503 PR6-412 GARRISON SAVANNAH 45 (B,CD,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-10 G Bradley 83
504 441323- SMARTIE EXPRESS 299 (CD,F,G,S) (S Norman) R Hodges 13-11-10 M A Fitzgerald 68
505 111F-F2 COONAWARA 55 (BF,G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 9-11-6 J Osborne 73
506 52554/4- ESHA NESS 336 (C,G,S) (P Bancroft) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-2 J White 77

BETTING: 10-11 Young Hustler, 7-2 Coonawara, 9-2 Blazing Walker, 5-1 Garrison Savannah, 12-1 Esha Ness, 16-1 Smartie Express.

1994: GARRISON SAVANNAH 11-11-2 G Bradley (7-2) Mrs J Pitman 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

BLAZING WALKER best effort this term 11l 2nd of 5 to General Pershing in Wetherby handicap chase (2m 4f 110yd, good). YOUNG HUSTLER 24½l 4th of 7 to Master Oats in Cheltenham chase (3m 1f 110yd, heavy). GARRISON SAVANNAH 6l 2nd of 7 to Flyer's Nap in handicap chase here (3m 1f 110yd, good). SMARTIE EXPRESS 6½l 3rd of 11 to M Jielder in Stratford handicap chase (2m 4f, good to soft) April 1994. Earlier beat Rough Quest 1½l in 6-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) with ESHA NESS (17lb better off) 10l 4th. COONAWARA 4l 2nd of 4 to Spree Cross in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m, soft).
Selection: GARRISON SAVANNAH

4.10 WINCANTON HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,702: 3m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

601 052F4F- ABBOTSHAM 250 (F,G,S) (D Carter) D Carter 10-12-13 M Rimell (7) 56
602 1U1111- AVOSTAR 258 (D,G,S) (R Russell) Miss C Saunders 8-12-13 R Russell (3) 78
603 5P/P20/ BORDER ARCHER 656 (F,G,S) (R Wright) Miss C Wright 11-12-13 L Jefford (7) —
604 3P22/16- ESPY 467 (F,G,S) (R A Bott Ltd) C Brooks 12-12-13 E James (7)
605 5P0/52-4 MONUMENTAL LAD 25P (G,S) (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 12-12-13 D Duggan (7) 81
606 U3321P- SONOFAGIPSY 250 (D,F,G) (Mrs B Whettam) J Dufosee 11-12-13 M Felton (3) 60
607 0P-130P WRECKLESS MAN 113 (F,G,S) (Mrs A-M Dartnall) V Dartnall 8-12-13 J Creighton (7) —
608 /FU0PP- COLCOMBE CASTLE 292P (C,S) (B Rendell) B Rendell 12-12-10 I Dowrick (7) —
609 P/45PP3- GATTERSTOWN 292P (G) (Mrs N Golle) Mrs Nicky Golle 12-12-10 S Mulcaire (7) 50
610 P2FP/P- SPICE MERCHANT 376P (F) (R Jenks) N Mitchell 9-12-10 N R Mitchell (7) —
611 33/1111- MIGHTY FROLIC 250 (F,G,S) (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 8-12-8 T Hills (7) 77
612 515044- CHANDIGARH 288 (S) (F Bown) F Bown 7-12-5 A Holdsworth (7) —
613 111-2 HOLLAND HOUSE 26P (F,G,S) (E Knight) P Channings 9-12-5 C Vigors (7) —
614 23/01 J B LAD 5P (S) (Mrs M Tuck) H Tuck 9-12-5 Miss P Gundry (7) —

BETTING: 9-4 Avostar, 11-4 Mighty Frolic, 3-1 Espy, 10-1 Holland House, 12-1 Monumental Lad, 14-1 Abbotsham, 16-1 Border Archer, Sonofagipsy, Chandigarh, 20-1 others.

1994: SUNNY MOUNT 8-11-12 J Greenall (11-10 fav) Miss C Saunders 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

AVOSTAR completed four-timer, beat Arctic Teal 12l in 9-runner hunter chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to soft) with ABBOTSHAM (7lb worse off) 26l 4th. ESPY best effort last term beat Dalgyns Boy short-head in 5-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good). MONUMENTAL LAD best effort last term 4l 2nd of 5 to Man Of Mystery in handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good to soft). WRECKLESS MAN best recent effort 5½l 3rd of 11 to Dancingcinderella in handicap chase at Kilbeggan (2m 5f, good). MIGHTY FROLIC completed four-timer, beat Mr Murdock 15l in 12-runner hunter chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good) with SONOFAGIPSY pulled up. HOLLAND HOUSE 5l 2nd of 11 to Fantus in an open at Larkhill (3m, good). J B LAD beat Heather Boy 8l in 15-runner maiden open at Larkhill (3m, good to soft).
Selection: ESPY

4.40 WINCANTON OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,634: 2m) (18 runners)

1 1 HERITOR 25 (S) (Mrs R Cobbold) M Pipe 5-11-10 J Lower —
2 ARITHMETIC (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-3 L Reddersold —
3 3- FAR EAST 327 (R Pealer) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-3 Mr G Shenkin (7) —
4 GENERAL ROYALE (Ms D Wilder) D Murray Smith 5-11-3 L Harvey —
5 MEDFORD (P Coombes) W G M Turner 5-11-3 T Murphy (7) —
6 PALLADIUM BOY (Palladium Ltd) Mrs J Retter 5-11-3 S Burrough —
7 QUAKER PEP (T Gibbon) B Llewellyn 5-11-3 Mr J L Llewellyn (5) —
8 2 SCOTBY 42 (Mrs E Gardiner) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 T Jenks —
9 SUPREME FLAME (Mrs J Chapple-Hyam) C Egerton 5-11-3 A Procter (3) —
10 42 WILD WEST WIND 54 (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 5-11-3 J Osborne —
11 BUCKLAND FILLEIGH (P Luff) P Hobbs 5-10-12 Peter Hobbs —
12 3 FLEXWING 71 (T Holland-Martin) R Johnson Houghton 5-10-12 A Maguire —
13 MINGAY (G Richards) Graham Richards 4-10-7 M Sharratt —
14 PURBECK RAMBLER (Miss M Lane) G Balding 4-10-7 A P McCoy —
15 SECOND STEP (A Smith) D Gandolfo 4-10-7 M Dwyer —
16 CHARMING GIRL (J King) T Thomson Jones 4-10-2 M A Fitzgerald —
17 JOLI-DEE (A Loze) R Frost 4-10-2 Tina Egan (5) —
18 ROUFONTAINE (D Deer) W Muir 4-10-2 M Richards —

BETTING: 3-1 Heritor, 9-2 Scotby, 5-1 Flexwing, 6-1 Arithmetic, 8-1 Supreme Flame, 10-1 Wild West Wind, Far East, 12-1 Buckland Filleigh, Purbeck Rambler, 14-1 others.

1994: SPARKLING CONE 5-11-3 R Dunwoody (8-1) M Pipe 17 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J Pitman	20	64	31.3	J Lower	7	19	36.8
O Sherwood	9	30	30.0	T Jenks	3	15	20.0
M Pipe	34	121	28.1	J Osborne	10	61	16.4
N Twiston-Davies	8	37	21.6	M Perrett	5	35	14.3
D Nicholson	10	53	18.9	D Gallagher	3	21	14.3
R Alner	7	41	17.1	B Powell	13	115	11.3

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: soft (chase course); heavy (hurdles)

1.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Landed Gentry (P Maddock, 6-1); 2, Fools Errand (4-1 fav); 3, Beyond Our Reach (8-1). 13 ran. 12l, 2½l. C Broad. Tote: £6.40; £1.80, £2.20, £3.70. DF: £14.80. Trio: £49.20. CSF: £29.29. Tricast: £180.07.

2.00 (2m ch) 1, Dancing Paddy (N Williamson, 3-1); 2, Gales Cavalier (8-11 fav); 3, Brief Gale (7-2). 4 ran. 14l, 25l. K Cunningham-Brown. Tote: £3.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £5.24.

2.30 (3m hdle) 1, Her Honour (C Swan, 13-8); 2, Mudahim (8-11 fav); 3, Light Veneer (16-1). 7 ran. 5l, 14l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £1.20. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.98.

3.05 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Martha's Son (R Farrant, Evens fav); 2, Coulton (9-2); 3, Amtrak Express (5-1). 6 ran. 7l, 3l. Capt T Forster. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.36.

3.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Sweet Duke (T Jenks, 100-30 fav); 2, Smith's Band (13-2); 3, Crank Shaft (8-1). 10 ran. Dist, dist. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £3.50; £1.80, £2.30, £2.20. DF: £12.10. Trio: £41.10. CSF: £23.76.

4.05 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Supreme Master (A P McCoy, 6-1); 2, Majboor Yalooz (50-1); 3, Flight Lieutenant (4-1). Great Marquess 4-6 fav. 12 ran. NR: Callisoe Bay. 1½l, 7l. Miss C Johnsey. Tote: £6.80; £1.50, £17.20, £1.30. DF: £395.00. Trio: £217.60. CSF: £195.73.

4.35 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Red Blazer (J Osborne, 13-2); 2, Intermagic (12-1); 3, Reverend Brown (4-1 jt-fav). All Clear 4-1 jt-fav. 25 ran. NR: 'ggins. 15l, 2l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £10.30; £3.60, £4.00, £2.40. DF: £88.60. Trio: £519.40 (part won. Pool of £380.46 carried forward to 3.10 Wincanton today). CSF: £90.91.

Jackpot: £12,920.90. Placepot: £158.70. Quadpot: £9.30.

Ludlow

Going: good to soft

1.20 (2m hdle) 1, Winn's Pride (S Wynne, 10-1); 2, Wren Warbler (16-1); 3, Seasonal Splendour (11-10 fav). 18 ran. ½l, ¼l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £10.10; £3.00, £4.80, £1.10. DF: £34.80. CSF: £157.23. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, Kissair (J Lower, 3-1 fav); 2, Magic Junction (10-1); 3, Dancing Sam (16-1). 18 ran. 12l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.50; £2.00, £3.10, £3.50. DF: £14.00. CSF: £32.37.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Daily Sport Girl (Mr J L Llewellyn, 25-1); 2, Must Be Magical (16-1); 3, Il Bambino (10-1); 4, Project's Mate (9-1). High Post 5-1 fav. 20 ran. 2½l, 2½l. B Llewellyn. Tote: £67.50; £8.60, £3.40, £3.10, £3.40. DF: £885.20 (part won. Pool of £673.28 carried forward to 3.10 Wincanton today). Trio: not won (pool of £345.82 carried forward to 3.10 Wincanton today). CSF: £376.80. Tricast: £3,848.32. No bid.

2.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, Percy Smollett (A Maguire, 8-13 fav); 2, Lady Ghislaine (9-1); 3, Sailors Luck (14-1). 7 ran. NR: Fibreguide Tech. 8l, 8l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.11. Tricast: £37.58.

3.25 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Certainly Strong (A Maguire, 7-4 fav); 2, Allegan (5-2); 3, Sky Run (7-2). 18 ran. 1¾l, 15l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £1.80, £1.70. DF: £3.80. CSF: £6.55.

3.55 (2m ch) 1, Master Eryl (Mr J M Pritchard, 33-1); 2, Wild Illusion (4-5 fav); 3, Some Obligation (16-1). 15 ran. 5l, 14l. M Sheppard. Tote: £28.60; £3.10, £1.20, £4.10. DF: £14.90. CSF: £57.16.

4.25 (3m ch) 1, Talbot (D Gallagher, 4-1); 2, Irish Stamp (13-2); 3, Welsh Lustre (7-4 fav). 16 ran. 6l, 1l. C Egerton. Tote: £4.20; £2.80, £3.70, £1.20. DF: £94.60. CSF: £30.05.

4.55 (2m hdle) 1, Rich Desire (A Maguire, 9-4 fav); 2, Time For A Flutter (5-1); 3, Star Mover (7-1). 14 ran. 8l, 7l. F Murphy. Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £12.70. Trio: £17.30. CSF: £14.52. Tricast: £67.11.

Placepot: £68.60.

Quadpot: not won (pool of £35.00 carried forward to Wincanton today).

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, Soldier's Leap (R Cochrane, 4-1); 2, Durgams First (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Recovery Lad (20-1). Poly Lane 5-2 jt-fav. 9 ran. 8l, 1½l. C Brittain. Tote: £6.90; £1.60, £1.50, £6.80. DF: £11.80. CSF: £14.91.

2.40 (1m 100yd) 1, Legal Fiction (Dean McKeown, 9-4 fav); 2, Erlton (3-1); 3, Folly Finnesse (10-1). 7 ran. NR: Arndilly. 7l, 4l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.60; £1.90, £1.30. DF: £5.20. CSF: £9.60. Tricast: £51.14.

3.15 (7f) 1, Crystal Loop (G Bardwell, 5-2); 2, Iron Man (7-1); 3, Master Millfield (11-2). Mazilla 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 2l, 1¾l. A Bailey. Tote: £5.30; £1.10, £2.50, £2.30. DF: £18.10. CSF: £19.75. Tricast: £82.65.

3.45 (5f) 1, Scored Again (Amanda Sanders, 5-2 fav); 2, Rocky Two (12-1); 3, Delrob (3-1). 8 ran. NR: Chadwell Hall. ¾l, nk. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £2.80; £1.40, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £19.90. Trio: £26.60. CSF: £28.67. Tricast: £85.77.

4.15 (1m 4f) 1, Harlequin Walk (J Quinn, 5-1); 2, Nirvana Prince (3-1); 3, Opera Buff (7-4 fav). 10 ran. 3½l, 10l. A Hide. Tote: £8.60; £2.70, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £15.70. CSF: £20.61.

4.45 (1m 4f) 1, Noufari (T Ives, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Stevie's Wonder (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Thaleros (13-2). Rainbow Walk 4-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. NR: Surprise Guest. 2½l, 3½l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £1.10, £2.70. DF: £5.30. Trio: £10.70. CSF: £22.39. Tricast: £100.78.

Placepot: £16.30. Quadpot: £6.60.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

2.00 Five Flags. 2.30 Gilpa Valu. 3.00 Roberty Lea. 3.30 Srivijaya. 4.00 Northern Saddler. 4.30 FONTANAYS (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 GILPA VALU.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.00 CROXTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,992: 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 65UP ZAMIL 50 (G,S) K Burke 10-11-10 N Williamson —
2 32-3 IT'S NOT MY FAULT 7 (D,G,S) P Jones 7-11-7 Mr J Culloty (7) 91
3 0/4 BAVARD BAY 30 (S) G Barnett 11-11-7 B Harding (5) —
4 U424 FIVE FLAGS 50 (B) Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 Richard Guest
5 P50- ODSTONE PEAR 257 (F) K Morgan 10-10-13 A S Smith 80
6 /P-3 MAY-DAY-BABY 34 (S) J Upson 9-10-12 C Davies (7) 80
7 3444 FAR OUT 18 (F,S) D Brennan 9-10-7 M Brennan 90
8 -530 FLAPPING FREDA 80 J Jenkins 7-10-6 P Niven 91
9 0656 FIRST COMMAND 41 (B) S Bowen 8-10-2 Pat Thompson (7) —
10 PP60 HIGHLAND FLAME 30F (V,G) K Ivory 6-10-0 Gee Armytage 96
11 R-RR LEGAL WIN 34 (B,F) F Jordan 7-10-0 J Lodder —

7-2 Far Out, 4-1 It's Not My Fault, 6-1 May-Day-Baby, Five Flags, 7-1 Odstone Pear, 8-1 Bavard Bay, Flapping Freda, 12-1 others.

2.30 EQUITABLE HOUSE INVESTMENTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,498: 3m) (16)

1 231B DESPERATE 7 (G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10 W Humphreys 84
2 5232 CORLY SPECIAL 19 (F,G,S) K Burke 8-10-12 R Supple 82
3 PP40 GLAISDALE 22 (S) M Tompkins 6-10-9 D Gallagher 87
4 2/6 RONANS GLEN 30 (F) M Wilkinson 8-10-8 J F Titley —
5 42-F FULL OF FIRE 68 K Bailey 8-10-7 N Williamson —
6 -F3F WOODHAY HILL 22 (G) S Sherwood 10-10-6 G Upton 80
7 26/0 FULL OF OATS 22 Miss H Knight 9-10-6 R Farrant —
8 4-36 HANDSOME NED 29 (B,G,S) D Grissell 9-10-5 J Railton 89
9 5313 SUNSET AGAIN 42 (F,S) P Ritchens 10-10-5 S Fox (5) 82
10 -401 CHEEKY FOX 41 (B,G,S) J White 9-10-4 P McLoughlin (5) 80
11 1234 MOBILE MESSENGER 22 (D,S) T George 7-10-2 D Bentley 86
12 -35F GILPA VALU 21 Mrs J Pitman 6-10-1 W Marston
13 4353 DENNINGTON 22 (G) G Hubbard 7-10-0 Richard Guest —
14 2433 PANT LLIN 50 (F) F Jordan 9-10-0 J Lodder 94
15 50P0 DONNA DEL LAGO 40 (B,F) Mrs M McCourt 9-10-0 J A McCarthy —
16 -4FP SPRINGPARK 29 T Casey 10-10-0 A Thornton —

5-2 Gilpa Valu, 5-1 Sunset Again, 6-1 Corly Special, 7-1 Cheeky Fox, 8-1 Full Of Fire, 9-1 Mobile Messenger, 10-1 Woodhay Hill, 12-1 others.

3.00 SIDNEY BANKS MEMORIAL NOVICES HURDLE (£7,230: 2m 5f 110yd) (7)

1 0-11 ROBERTY LEA 69 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8 P Niven 96
2 3425 DEDUCE 27 (F,G) J White 6-11-4 J Railton 87
3 1P31 NAHTHEN LAD 19 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4 W Marston 85
4 -331 SO HOPEFUL 31 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-4 R Greene
5 U SWORD MASTER 26 Bob Jones 6-11-4 N Williamson —
6 -4PP TRADER TYE 22 G Hubbard 7-11-4 Richard Guest 63
7 2623 JATHIB 41 C Williams 4-10-7 S Keightley 71

4-6 Roberty Lea, 4-1 So Hopeful, 5-1 Nahthen Lad, 12-1 Deduce, 25-1 Jathib, 33-1 Trader Tye, 50-1 Sword Master.

3.30 GLATTON CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,285: 2m 110yd) (13)

1 ANNULMENT B Curley 6-11-11 E Murphy —
2 220- SRIVIJAYA 398 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-11 P Niven 98
3 555- KING WILLIAM 3F (CD,F) J Spearing 10-11-7 N Williamson 93
4 -544 PINECONE PETER 19 (V,D,BF,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-11-7 M Brennan 87
5 23-1 MAJOR'S LAW 50 (D,G,S) J White 6-11-5 P McLoughlin (5) 82
6 RR RATHCANNON CARSHAL 72 R Curtis 10-11-5 D Morris —
7 1643 VAZON BAY 41 (D,F,G) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-5 W Marston —
8 0FF0 INCHYDONEY BOY 50 J Poulton 6-11-3 A Thornton —
9 4-6P JALINGO 41 (D,G,S) K Morgan 8-11-1 A S Smith
10 SHOMBERG 835F John Whyte 5-11-1 M Hourigan —
11 0P/P THE GORROCK 85 A Chamberlain 6-11-1 D Leahy (3) —
12 5 SEASON'S STAR 128 Mrs M McCourt 5-10-12 G McCourt —
13 0 AVRIL ETOILE 28 C Jones 5-10-10 G Upton —

9-4 Srivijaya, 4-1 King William, 9-2 Pinecone Peter, 5-1 Vazon Bay, 7-1 Annulment, 8-1 Jalingo, 10-1 Major's Law, 14-1 others.

4.00 FARCET FEN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,444: 2m 110yd) (5)

1 -6P5 ATLAAL 27 (CD,F,G,S) J Jenkins 10-12-0 N Williamson 90
2 1-63 SARTORIUS 27 (D,F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 9-11-12 G McCourt 94
3 -513 DRIVING FORCE 70 (B,CD,F,G,S) Mrs M McCourt 9-11-12 D Gallagher
4 1123 NORTHERN SADDLER 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-10-13 I Lawrence 95
5 0-31 NOCATCHIM 42 (B,D,F,G,S) S Sherwood 6-10-7 Gee Armytage 86

7-4 Sartorius, 9-4 Northern Saddler, 11-4 Driving Force, 7-1 Nocatchim, 8-1 Atlaal.

4.30 LONG STANTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,884: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 /63 SALWAN 28 (CD,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-12-0 W Marston 86
2 -011 AMIGOS 61 (CD,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-13 E Callaghan (7)
3 -313 ISAIAH 28 (D,F,S) Mrs J Cecil 6-11-8 T Kent 90
4 5/1- CHUCK CURLEY 435 (CD,F,S) B Curley 7-11-8 E Murphy 85
5 FP-F FIERCE 21 (CD,F,S) J Jenkins 7-10-11 N Williamson —
6 4442 FONTANAYS 14 (CD,S) Mrs M McCourt 7-10-10 G McCourt 98
7 -326 FAMOUS DANCER 12 (D,S) J Jenkins 7-10-0 D Gallagher 85

6-4 Amigos, 5-2 Isaiah, 6-1 Fontanays, 7-1 Salwan, 8-1 Chuck Curley, 10-1 Fierce, 33-1 Famous Dancer.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 13 winners from 33 runners, 39.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 9 from 30, 30.0%; Mrs J Pitman, 11 from 37, 29.7%; J Spearing, 6 from 23, 26.1%; J R Upson, 8 from 48, 16.7%; J White, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: A Thornton, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; P Niven, 6 from 27, 22.2%; J Railton, 10 from 48, 20.8%; N Williamson, 9 from 45, 20.0%; M Hourigan, 4 from 22, 18.2%; W Marston, 7 from 39, 17.9%.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 3.50 Mr Lowry. WINCANTON: 2.40 Bournel

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Amazing News. 2.20 La Residence. 2.50 Birequest. 3.20 Whackford Squeers. 3.50 Mr Frosty. 4.20 Masrah Dubai.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 BIREQUEST (nap). 3.20 Gulf Shaadi. 3.50 Mr Frosty.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

1.50 LINGFIELD PARK AWT SPRINT SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £2,871: 5f) (10 runners)

1 46-4 TEE-EMM 9 (CD,G) P Howling 5-10-0 J Quinn 8
2 06-5 AMAZING NEWS 5 M Campion 4-9-11 R Cochrane 3
3 4220 DISTANT DYNASTY 2 (CD,G,S) B Pearce 5-9-10 S Sanders (5) 10
4 003- HALLIARD 129 T Jones 4-9-10 R Perham 4
5 6600 TENOR 10 D Nicholls 4-9-6 Alex Greaves 1
6 3341 BON SECRET 5 (CD,G) T Naughton 3-9-5 (7ex) D Harrison 7
7 034- SWIFT NICK NEVISON 57 K Ivory 4-8-8 Amanda Sanders (7) 9
8 06-6 MISS SHAM 13 (D,F,G,S) J Balding 6-8-8 Claire Balding (7) 5
9 0003 TOMMY TEMPEST 8 (V,D,G,S) A Bailey 6-8-6 M Baird (5) 6
10 0054 EFFICACY 10 A Jarvis 4-8-2 N Varley (5) 2

7-2 Bon Secret, 4-1 Tee-Emm, 5-1 Swift Nick Nevison, Halliard, 7-1 Efficacy, 8-1 Amazing News, 10-1 Tommy Tempest, 12-1 others.

2.20 WISTERIA CLAIMING STAKES (£2,701: 7f) (11)

1 -352 SWEET SUPPOSIN 14 (B,C,G) K McAuliffe 4-9-3 R Cochrane 4
2 10-3 ROCKY WATERS 19 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 6-9-2 A Morris 7
3 -050 COALISLAND 7 (B,C,S) R Ingram 5-8-9 W Woods 2
4 00-0 SECRET ASSIGNMENT 9 C Cyzer 5-8-7 S Mulvey (5) 10
5 40-1 LA RESIDENCE 34 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-6 S Sanders (5) 3
6 0-00 BOLD CYRANO 19 B Palling 4-8-5 A Clark 6
7 04-0 SOBA GUEST 5 (C,F,G,S) R Juckes 6-8-5 S Drowne (5) 11
8 000- ARRAS ROYALE 115 J Long 5-8-4 P McCabe (5) 5
9 00-0 CHRISTIAN SPIRIT 5 (B,C,G) B Pearce 5-8-3 Stephen Davies 1
10 6-14 DOME PATROL 10 (CD,BF,G) W Muir 4-8-3 D Harrison 9
11 0055 VELOCE 6 (V,D,F,G) A Bailey 7-8-3 Angela Gallimore (7) 8

3-1 Rocky Waters, 5-1 Sweet Supposin, Dome Patrol, 6-1 Veloce, La Residence, 7-1 Soba Guest, 8-1 Coalisland, 10-1 others.

2.50 DAILY STAR AWT CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,811: 1m 2f) (9)

1 000- BLURRED IMAGE 174 (F,S) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-0 D Gibbs (7) 5
2 1-03 SECRET ALY 16 (C,G) C Brittain 5-9-12 M Rimmer 7
3 0-11 BIREQUEST 16 (CD,G) R Boss 4-9-9 L Dettori 3
4 -304 OUR EDDIE 7 (V,CD,G) B Gubby 6-9-4 T Ives 8
5 222- RUBY ESTATE 157 (G) A James 4-9-3 S Sanders (5) 1
6 42-0 WALDO 26 (V,F) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-2 D Harrison 9
7 30-0 ADMIRALS FLAME 9 (S) C Wall 4-9-1 G Duffield 4
8 00-4 MR BROWNING 7 M Campion 4-8-4 R Cochrane 2
9 -542 CAPTAIN MARMALADE 7 (CD,G) D Thom 6-8-2 D R McCabe (3) 6

5-2 Birequest, 3-1 Secret Aly, 5-1 Blurred Image, 6-1 Captain Marmalade, Waldo, 7-1 Our Eddie, 8-1 Ruby Estate, 10-1 others.

3.20 FORSYTHIA CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,572: 1m) (6)

1 3-11 GULF SHAADI 13 (C,G) C Brittain 9-7 B Doyle 2
2 4-12 NO PATTERN 12 (CD,BF,G) G L Moore 9-5 L Suthern (7) 4
3 1- JUST LUCKY 71 (D,G) R Armstrong 9-2 W Woods 6
4 3-1 MONTANELLI 29 (G) K McAuliffe 9-2 R Cochrane 5
5 1 WHACKFORD SQUEERS 12 (CD,G) C Cyzer 9-0 T Ives 3
6 60- RENOWN 105 Lord Huntingdon 8-11 D Harrison 1

2-1 Gulf Shaadi, 11-4 No Pattern, 7-2 Just Lucky, 5-1 Montanelli, 7-1 Whackford Squeers, 20-1 Renown.

3.50 JAPONICA HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,024: 7f) (6)

1 00-1 MR FROSTY 14 (CD,G) W Jarvis 9-7 L Dettori 6
2 03-4 MR LOWRY 33 (B) R Boss 8-9 G Duffield 2
3 -134 WATER HAZARD 12 (CD,G) S Dow 8-7 S Sanders (5) 5
4 -324 PRINCE RUDOLF 5 (V,BF,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-6 M Fenton 4
5 60-0 ROYAL UPRISING 16 G L Moore 8-1 C Rutter 1
6 00-0 ZELIBA 14 C Brittain 7-11 J Quinn 3

7-4 Mr Frosty, 9-4 Water Hazard, 7-2 Mr Lowry, 4-1 Prince Rudolf, 16-1 Zeliba, 33-1 Royal Uprising.

4.20 BUDDLEIA MAIDEN STAKES (£3,606: 1m 4f) (11)

1 30-0 ADDED DIMENSION 5 C Nash 4-8-12 R Perham 8
2 4-2 DVORAK 26 (BF) B McMath 4-8-12 A Mackay 6
3 030- GINGER JIM 293 (V) P Hedger 4-8-12 G Duffield 7
4 55-2 MASRAH DUBAI 8 M Jarvis 4-8-12 T Ives 5
5 56- POWER 217 C Brittain 4-8-12 B Doyle 2
6 TERVEL 234 J Pearce 4-8-12 J McLaughlin 11
7 06/ JADIDH 14J C Wildman 7-8-11 Stephen Davies 1
8 5/0- SNOW DREAM 318 M Ryan 5-8-11 A Clark 9
9 /00- MUTIARA 51 Miss G Kelleway 4-8-7 R Cochrane 4
10 0-23 REGAL PURSUIT 26 (H) C Horgan 4-8-7 W Woods 3
11 00- THE LEAF SWEEPER 156 M Bolton 4-8-7 C Rutter 10

5-2 Power, 4-1 Dvorak, Masrah Dubai, 9-2 Regal Pursuit, 5-1 Ginger Jim, 8-1 Snow Dream, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jarvis, 7 winners from 26 runners, 26.9%; Lord Huntingdon, 28 from 123, 22.8%; R Armstrong, 7 from 36, 19.4%; K McAuliffe, 4 from 21, 19.0%; C Brittain, 17 from 95, 17.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 53 winners from 202 rides, 26.2%; Amanda Sanders, 4 from 17, 23.5%; L Suthern, 4 from 17, 23.5%; G Duffield, 22 from 105, 21.0%; Alex Greaves, 10 from 59, 16.9%.

Times series nears

THERE are 17 five-day acceptors for first qualifier in The Times Rising Stars Hunter Chase series, which begins at Hereford next Monday: Agapanthus, Albert Blake, Andrelot, Bradford Beau, Celtic Abbey, Coverdale Lane, Fiftysevenchannels, Green's Van Goyen, In The Water, Itsgoneoff, Lord Of The West, Mr Fudge, My Nominee, Proud Sun, Rusty Bridge, Saracen's Boy, Woodbury Fair.

Bangor off

TOMORROW'S meeting at Bangor has been abandoned because of waterlogging. The clerk of the course, Bob Davies, had called an inspection for this morning but, after continued rain, brought the decision forward. It is the 44th National Hunt meeting to be lost this season.

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England to benefit in Uefa Cup bonanza

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOUR English football clubs will take part in the Uefa Cup next season, but the number could increase to as many as six after a football tournament in Europe this summer.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, confirmed yesterday that the Football Association has been allocated three slots — the same as for the present campaign — based on performances during the past five seasons.

And there will be an additional berth because English teams are among the leading three of the fair-play ranking list.

Finally, up to four clubs from the FA Carling Premiership could enter the revived Intertoto Cup, to be played in June and July, and the semi-finalists are each guaranteed a place in the preliminary round of the 1995-96 Uefa Cup.

Italy, France and Germany command four automatic slots in the competition proper, while Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Russia have a basic three along with England.

Scotland is among 13 nations restricted to two representatives while Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have one each.

The International Football Federation's emergency committee was expected to make its decision known today on whether Nigeria should play host to the world youth championship month, a Fifa spokesman said in Zurich yesterday.

Jack Warner, a senior official of Fifa, the world governing body, said in December after inspecting stadiums and facilities in Nigeria that it would be "the eighth wonder of the world" if the championship went ahead as planned, from March 11-26.

But a Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, said Warner had completed his final inspection on Tuesday and had now reported back to Fifa headquarters in Zurich.

"His report was without exception positive. That report has been brought to the attention of the emergency committee along with a number of administrative concerns," Cooper said.

"The members of the emergency committee are being asked a simple question: whether they feel that under the circumstances the championships should go ahead," he added.

Cooper declined to release any details about Fifa's "administrative concerns", although he did say security fears were not considered a factor.

Fifa is known, however, to have been concerned about medical facilities and the risk of infectious diseases if the championship went ahead in Nigeria. There have also been doubts raised as to whether Nigerian organisers have fulfilled insurance requirements sought by Fifa.

The seven-strong Fifa emergency committee is chaired by the Fifa president, João Havelange. It also includes the African football confederation president, Issa Hayatou, and Lennart Johansson, president of Uefa.

Cooper said Havelange would hold the casting vote if the other six members of the committee were split down the middle on holding the championships in Nigeria.

Roberto Baggio, the Juventus and Italy striker, has set his sights on a return to action later this month after a long lay-off caused by a knee injury.

"I'm very relieved. What I need now are a couple of weeks to get fit again and I hope to play against Sampdoria [on February 26]," Italian newspapers quoted Baggio as saying yesterday.

Baggio has not played for the Italian league leaders, Juventus, since sustaining the injury during their game against Padova on November 27.

Exploratory "keyhole" surgery last week confirmed earlier tests which attributed the pain to a scar on his knee which had yet to heal fully after a previous operation.

Injuries have blighted Baggio's career, the most serious coming in 1985 when he tore cruciate ligaments in the same right knee and was out of the game for nearly two years.

The former European player of the year has since carried out special exercises with weights every day to maintain the muscle tone around the fragile knee.

☐ Stenhousemuir are poised to play their Tennents Scottish Cup fourth-round match against Aberdeen on Saturday, February 18, at home. The Scottish second-division leaders have decided against switching the tie away from their ground.

British team prepares to take the plunge



The British bobsleigh team of Mark Tout, right, and Lennox Paul concentrate on perfecting their skills as they set out to take the plunge on a practice run in their build-up for the world championships in Winterberg, Germany, on Sunday. Photograph: Heinz Ducklau

The definitive recipe for a football feast

Kevin McCarra tells the story of Meadowbank, Berwick Rangers and the astonishing Tennents Scottish Cup-tie that had everything

The convolutions of a classic cup contest should cause as much bewilderment as excitement, and, by that standard, the Tennents Scottish Cup third-round replay between Berwick Rangers and Meadowbank Thistle at Shielfield Park on Tuesday night was a triumph. Meadowbank won the match 7-6 in a penalty shoot-out after a 3-3 draw, but completely confused their manager in the process.

When Meadowbank levelled the score with the very last kick of extra time, Michael Lawson was under the impression that Berwick led 4-3. He did not realise that an earlier "goal" by the home team had actually been disallowed for offside. Jim Renton, the club secretary, had, however, been able to keep count and corrected the manager.

Lawson must be forgiven his lapse at an event where disorientation was mandatory. Even a bald timetable of events is likely to induce delirium:

— 16 minutes: Meadowbank take the lead through Graham.

— 65 minutes: Williamson, of Meadowbank, handles on the goalline and is sent off. Banks misses the penalty.

— 71 minutes: Berwick at last equalise when Irvine converts another penalty.

— 89 minutes: Neil scores for Berwick, who lead 2-1.

— 90 minutes: Bailey equalises for Meadowbank.

— 107 minutes: Hawke scores for Berwick.

— 120 minutes: Meadowbank's Wilson equalises again from the penalty spot.

— Time for a shoot-out: Ellison, the Meadowbank goalkeeper, saves two penalties and converts one himself, allowing his side to win the sudden-death decider 7-6.

As if the meat of the match were not sufficient, there was also some tasty garnish. The replay was occurring just 24 hours after the first match — a 1-1 draw — because a greyhound meeting made Shielfield unavailable on last night. All third-round ties had, under a Scottish Football Association (SFA) ruling, to be completed this week to prevent a backlog developing in the competition.

The weariness of everyone involved did not leave Lawson sufficiently listless, and the referee, taking exception to his touchline behaviour, sent him to the stand late in the match. The Meadowbank manager might have pleaded emotional stress in mitigation. After all, he was once a Berwick player.

"I cannot praise the boys enough for the way they fought," Lawson said, "especially after going down to ten men. The spirit was unbelievable."

The incentive for heroism was substantial. Meadowbank now play Celtic at Hampden Park in the fourth round on February 18 and should make £60,000 from the match.

This first meeting between the two clubs comes in Meadowbank's last season of existence. They are about to move from Edinburgh to a new stadium and will be renamed Livingston FC.

Meanwhile, Celtic's dispute with Kilmarnock is proving just as intricate, but far less entertaining, than Meadowbank's victory over Berwick.

The Ayrshire club is seeking compensation for the loss of Tommy Burns, its manager, to Celtic last summer. The matter is due to be dealt with by an independent tribunal set up by the SFA.

Celtic, however, have so far refused to waive their right to legal action should they disagree with the tribunal's findings. The authorities feel that this undermining of the arbitration process is unacceptable. The clerk of the tribunal has now written to both clubs in an attempt to resolve the issue.

Midland forwards agree to sign new contracts

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BARRY FRY, the Birmingham City manager, said yesterday that his Portugese winger, José Dominguez had "come to his senses" and signed a new 3½-year contract.

Dominguez had at first asked for £3,000 a week but the new contract still represents a healthy increase to around £1,000 a week for a second division player still to complete a full game for the club.

"José was told there would be no more money at this stage and that we would talk again in 18 months," Fry said. "He's an exciting player with tremendous potential and a favourite of the crowd, but he's still got some way to go."

Dominguez's wage will rise to around £1,500 a week if he helps Birmingham to gain promotion this season. Dominguez, signed from Benfica for £160,000 11 months ago, has attracted the interest of Liverpool, Blackburn, Newcastle and Aston Villa.

The Birmingham midfielder George Parris, who is available on a free transfer, is to join Brighton on loan.

Aston Villa have given Dwight Yorke, their Trinidad and Tobago international, a new contract.

Brian Little, the manager, put an end to transfer speculation by offering the 23-year-old player a deal that will keep him at the club until the end of the 1996/97 season.

"In the last two months I have realised that Dwight is a talented young player. I am looking forward to watching this talent develop over the next couple of years," Little said.

Yorke, who has been a regular member of the side for the last nine games, has made more than 100 appearances for Villa, scoring over 30 goals. "I am delighted to have finalised my new contract," he said.

"I now want to concentrate on helping Aston Villa challenge for honours and in doing so establish myself as a regular Premiership player. I have been with the club since 1989 and consider Birmingham to be my home. I had seen press articles linking me with other clubs, but I only ever wanted to stay at Villa Park. I am convinced there are exciting times ahead."

Leyton Orient's longest-serving player has been shown the door after an "unacceptable" display in Tuesday's home defeat by Blackpool.

Defender Terry Howard was told during the half-time interval on his 397th appearance for the club that he was being substituted, given a free transfer — and two weeks' wages.

"He was given the necessary documentation after the match," the joint manager, John Sitton, said.

"Terry has been a very good servant and we are sure he will get another club".

Phil Stant, the former Cardiff City striker, will cost Bury £65,000, a Football League tribunal in Manchester decided yesterday. Cardiff wanted £200,000 for the 32-year-old player, but Bury offered only £30,000.

Bury is Stant's ninth club in nine years. The Bolton-born forward previously played for Hereford, Notts County, Blackpool, Lincoln, Huddersfield, Fulham and Mansfield.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	40	100	good	heavy	fair	cloud 4	31/1
(Good skiing on uncrowded pistes; some worn patches)							
Obergurgl	55	130	good	varied	good	fair -3	4/2
(Still very good skiing; high cloud; snow forecast)							
Schladming	45	100	good	fair	fair	fair 4	5/2
(All pistes above 900 metres good; still very warm)							
Söll	40	85	fair	heavy	slushy	fine 5	5/2
(Still good skiing available, south slopes slushy)							
FRANCE							
Avoriaz	190	260	fair	varied	fair	cloud -1	30/1
(Pistes firmer with cooler temperatures)							
Chamonix	70	530	good	varied	fair	cloud 2	30/1
(Pistes excellent; off-piste very varied)							
Val d'Isère	125	320	good	varied	good	fair 2	5/2
(Pistes in good shape, some icy patches)							
Val Thorens	185	310	good	crust	good	cloud -4	4/2
(Pistes still good but becoming hard-packed)							
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	75	110	good	varied	fair	fine 1	4/2
(Hazy sunshine and cooler conditions; firmer pistes)							
Grindelwald	30	150	good	heavy	icy	cloud 4	4/2
(Good skiing on hard-packed snow; some icy patches)							
Mürren	80	170	good	varied	good	fair 3	4/2
(Very good skiing; windy; snow expected soon)							
Wengen	25	100	good	varied	good	cloud 4	4/2
(Most pistes excellent; lower runs icy first thing)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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Break from training pays off for Popov

ALEXANDER POPOV, the Russian swimmer, demonstrated that he remains the man to beat in freestyle sprint events when he won the 50 metres at a World Cup short-course meeting in Saint Vincent, northern Italy, yesterday.

Popov missed the first three of the seven World Cup meetings to continue training in Australia, but his trip to Italy proved worthwhile as he added the 50 metres to his victory in the 100 metres freestyle on Tuesday.

Popov, the winner of gold medals over both distances in the long-course world championships in Rome last September, recorded 22.56sec yesterday. The time was well outside the world record of 21.50sec that he set last year.

Franziska van Almsick, of Germany, made it four wins in two days when she took the 100 and 400 metres freestyle events. With the Chinese and American teams absent, van Almsick had little opposition, winning the 100 metres in 54.20sec and recording 4min 12.28sec over the longer distance.

Van Almsick, the winner of the 200 metres world championship gold in Rome last year, had taken the 200 metres and the 50 metres freestyle on Tuesday.

Chris Renaud, of Canada, edged out Vladimir Selkov, of Russia, in the 50 metres backstroke, but Selkov made amends in the 200 metres, the distance in which he is the long-course world champion.

Antti Kasvio, of Finland, another world champion, took the 800 metres freestyle after winning the 400 metres 24 hours earlier.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

Tuesday night's late results

FA CUP: Fourth-round replay: Liverpool 1 Burnley 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Notts County 1 Bolton 1. Second division: Bradford 2 Bristol Rovers 1, Shrewsbury 3 Plymouth 2, York 0 Wrexham 1, Leyton Orient 0 Blackpool 1. Third division: Doncaster 0 Gillingham 2, Scarborough 1 Lincoln 1

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Quarter-final: Wigan Athletic 1 Crewe Alexandra 3. Semi-final: Bury 1 Rochdale 2

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stafford Rangers 0 Halifax Town 1

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third-round replays: Berwick 3 Meadowbank 3 (aet, Meadowbank win 7-6 on pens), Clyde 1 Dundee United 5, Stenhousemuir 4 St Johnstone 0, Hearts 2 Clydebank 1. Revised fourth-round draw: Hibernian v Motherwell; Heart of Midlothian v Rangers, Hamilton v Dundee United, Airdrie v Dunfermline, Stenhousemuir v Aberdeen, Celtic v Meadowbank Thistle, Dundee v Raith Rovers, Kilmarnock v East Fife.

BELLS LEAGUE: Third division: Alloa 0 East Stirling 1

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Third round: Cardiff City 7 Ebbw Vale 0.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Porthmadog 1 Mold 2. League Cup: Third round, first leg: Holywell 1 Conwy 0.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round replay: Waterford Utd 1 Galway Utd 1 (abandoned): Limerick 0 Bohemians 2.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Newry 2 Glenavon 3.

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: First round: Portadown 5 Armagh City 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester 5 Cambridge City 1; Gravesend and Northfleet 0 Hastings 0. Midland division: Bedworth Utd 2 Redditch Utd 0; Hinckley Town 0 Armitage 0; Ilkeston Town 5 Grantham Town 3. Southern division: Erith and Belvedere 0 Bury Town 1; Poole Town 0 Weymouth 2.

DIADORA FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Second division: Banstead Athletic 2 Egham Town 3; Cheshunt 0 Oxford City 2. Third division: Kingsbury Town 1 East Thurrock Utd 1; Cove 3 Lewes 1

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Leeds 3; Everton 1 Rotherham 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 0 Charlton Athletic 3; Queens Park Rangers 3 Swindon 0; West Ham United 1 Norwich 0. Second division: Bournemouth 4 Torquay 1, Swansea 3 Exeter 2.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood Hanley 0 Maine Road (Manchester) 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield Utd 0 Chippenham Town 0

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cinderford Town 5 Pegasus Juniors 1.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Hadleigh United 0 Harwich and Parkeston 3; Newmarket Town 1 Diss Town 0; Wroxham 0 Wisbech Town 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Glasshoughton Wel 4 Pickering Town 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta 1 Ramsgate 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Portfield 4 Southwick 0; Burgess Hill Town 3 Crowborough Athletic 2; Ringmer 2 Three Bridges 0, Shoreham 3 Pagham 0.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town 0 Hoddesdon Town 3; Milton Keynes 1 Buckingham Ath 3; Welwyn G C 0 Brache Sparta 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Horndean 0 Bournemouth 4

SPANISH CUP: Third round: First leg: Barcelona 1 Atletico Madrid 4

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final: First leg: Sheffield Sharks 71 (Finch 19, Gayle 18, Huggins 11) Birmingham Bullets 72 (Lloyd 25, Samuels 23, Dorsey 16)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 95 Charlotte 92 (OT). Cleveland 90 Philadelphia 84; Detroit 119 Washington 115, Milwaukee 95 New York 87; Minnesota 109 Golden State 100, Phoenix 114 Dallas 113, Los Angeles Lakers 85 Denver 83, San Antonio 106 Seattle 103, Utah 101 Los Angeles Clippers 88

BOXING

IPSWICH: Heavy: Kevin McBride (Ire) bt Carl Gaffney (Leeds) rsc 1st. Heavy: James Oyebola (Paddington) ko Keith McMurray (California) 7th rnd. Super-middle: David Slane (Bury St Edmonds) bt Marvin O'Brion (Leeds) pts. Lightweight: Alan Templo (Hartlepool) bt Brian Coleman (Birmingham) pts. Welter: Prince Louis (Hung's Lynn) bt Chris Vassiliou (Margate) pts. Middle: Andy Ewen (Ipswich) bt Russell Washer (Swansea) pts.

CRICKET

KINGSTON, Barbados: Under-19 International. England 278-6 (A Singh 130) West Indies 188. England won by 90 runs to take series 2-1

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane: Queensland 310-4 (M Love 98, A Border 72 not out, M Hayden 82) v New South Wales.

HOCKEY

DELHI: Indira Gandhi Gold Cup: Group A: India 8 Kazakhstan 1, England 1 Malaysia 1

OAKHILL: Representative matches: Cambridge University 2 RAF 1, Oxford University 2 Army 0. Tour match: Ipswich 1 Lomas (Argentina) 4.

GOLF

PHOENIX: Fling World Pro-Am: Leading second-round scores (GB unless stated): 140: C Gibson (US) 68, 71 143: R Brown 70, 73 145: H Gardner (US) 73, 72, 147: S Deloy 79, 68 149: G Farr 75, 74 150: T Spence 77, 73, M Slater 75, 75, D Scott 73, 77; S Griffin 75, 75; R Newsome 74, 76.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

PONTINS LEAGUE (7.0). First division: Stoke City v Liverpool. Second division: Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle United.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Oxford United v Brighton (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Derby (7.0)

BOXING: British super-bantamweight championship: Richie Wenton (Liverpool) v Paul Lloyd (Ellesmere Port) (Chester).

HOCKEY: Cambridge University v Lomas (Arg) (Wilberforce Road, 2.0)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley).

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Bramhall). LTA women's satellite tournament (Sheffield).

Other British: 152, R Weir 73, 79 156: B Wailes 82 74

SAN LORENZO: Portugal: Longshot-Hotel Dona Filipa Pro-am (Leaders after two rounds): 139: B Evans (Quinta do Lago) 71 68 145: M Studds (Hesketh) 72 73, J Heggarty (Rathmore) 75, 70 146: P Milton (Surbiton) 74 72, D Bailey (Watford GR) 70, 75 147: T Brooks (Stavanger) 74, 73, S Purves (Tudor Park) 73, 74 Team: 265: M Bishop (Toot Hill)

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Panthers 10 Basingstoke Bvrs 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 7 Montreal 4, Buffalo 2 Washington 1, Detroit 6 San Jose 0, Pittsburgh 7 Florida 3, Tampa Bay 5 New York Islanders 2; St Louis 5 Los Angeles 5 (OT), Vancouver 4 Edmonton 4 (OT), Chicago 3 Anaheim 0

LACROSSE

AMERICAN TOUR: Oxford University 0, Middlebury College 24.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open championship: Third round: N Smith bt J Longley 15-7, 15-9, 15-3, J Spurling bt N Cripps 0-15, 3-1 (retired) T Cockroft bt A Orchard 15-0, 15-4 15-12, W Boone beat R Montgomerie 15-8, 15-10, 15-6

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE Second division: South Wales Police 11 Cross Keys 0, Pontypridd 5 Aberavon 11 CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 22 Army 20

YACHTING

AMERICA'S CUP: Louis Vuitton Challenge trials: round two: Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson, NZ) bt France3 (M Payot, Fr) 3min, Nippon 94 (M Nemba, Japan) bt Sydney 95 (M Ozeon, Aus) 32.03, Team New Zealand (P Coutts, NZ) bt Rioja de Espana (P Campos, Sp) 20.50. Overall standings: Louis Vuitton: 1 Team New Zealand 16 pts; 2, equal: oneAustralia (J Bertrand) & Tag Heuer Challenge 13, 4, Nippon 94, 10, 5, France 3, 7, 6, Sydney 95, 4, 7, Rioja de Espana 0, Citizen Cup defence trials: 1, eq Stars & Stripes (D Conner) & Young America (R Mahaney) 9pts, 3, America³ (L Egnot) 3

SWIMMING

ST VINCENT: World Cup short-course meeting: Winners: Women: Freestyle: 50m: F van Almsick (Ger) 25.45. 100m: 1, Van Almsick 54.20; 2, S Ryan (Aus) 56.34, 3, A Windsor (Aus) 56.80. 200m: Van Almsick 1.57.87. 400m: 1, van Almsick, 4.12.28, 2, C Vallonne (It), 4.20.46; 3, L Vigarni (It), 800m: H Cerna (Cz) 8.48.46. Backstroke, 50m: A Buschschulte (Ger) 28.63. 200m: Buschschulte 2.10.98. Breaststroke: 100m: B Becue (Bel) 1.09.32. Butterfly: 100m: M Smith (Ire) 1.00.77. Individual medley: 200m: B Vestergaard (Den) 2.13.08. Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1, A Popov (Rus) 22.56sec, 2 S Gunzel (Ger) 22.91, 3, R Gusperti (It) 23.14; 200m: 1, D Loader (NZ) 1.46.44; 2, P M Siciliano (It) 1.49.69; 3, M Bossolino (It) 1.50.34. 800m: 1, A Kasvio (Fin) 7.49.61, 2, S Zesner (Ger) 7.50.25; 3, A Berti (It) 8.01.36. Backstroke: 50m: 1, C Renaud (Can) 25.81, 2, V Selkov (Rus) 25.90, 3, E Mensi (It) 26.05. 200m: 1, Selkov 1.56.67; 2, Mensi 1.57.10; 3, M Mazzari (It) 1.59.41. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, M Warnecke (Ger) 1.01.49; 2, A Ivanov (Rus) 1.02.58, 3, M Krawczyk (Pol) 1.02.65. Butterfly: 100m: 1, M Klim (Aus) 54.94; 2, L A Laera (It) 54.96, 3, A Pine (Aus) 55.20. Individual medley: 200m: 1, M Malinich (Pol) 2.00.42; 2, L Secchi (It) 2.00.62, 3, R Serbl (Ger) 2.02.24.

TENNIS

DUBAI: Men's tournament: First round: P Korda (Cz) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-1, 6-2, A Gaudenzi (It) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt M Jaeckle (Ger) 6-3, 6-1, C Costa (Sp) bt F Roig (Sp) 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, K Kinnear (US) bt A Volkov (Rus) 7-6, 7-6, W Ferreira (SA) bt J Fitzgerald (Aus) 6-4, 6-1, T Woodbridge (Aus) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 6-3, 6-2, J Sanchez (Sp) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-2, 6-4

BRAMHALL LTA men's satellite tournament, First round: (GB unless stated) B Cowan bt O Rustiansson (Swe) 6-4, 6-4, T Ketola (Fin) bt A Rybalco (Ukr) 6-4, 6-3, C Beecher bt M Hohlmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-0, R Wasson (Holl) bt G Vanderveeren (Bel) 6-4, 6-2, D Van Scheppingen (Holl) bt C N'Goran (Ivory C) 7-6, 6-2, J Pelikan (Cz Rep) bt A Veglio (Switz) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, N Bruno (It) bt L Milligan 7-6, 6-1; P Fredriksson (Swe) bt F Cousin (Bel) 6-1, 6-2, T Kempers (Holl) bt T Zdrazila (Cz Rep) 7-6, 6-3, A Pechardson bt N Godwin (SA) 6-3, 7-6, C Bennett bt P Hand 1-6, 6-3, 6-0, Van Uitelen (Bel) bt M Merklein (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, S Manna (Swi) bt M Navarra (It) 6-3, 6-3, S Matheu (Fra) bt J Carrasco (Spa) 7-6, 6-2, T Johansson (Swe) bt M Hromec (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-2, P Pala (Czech) bt R Matheson 4-6, 6-2, 7-6

SHEFFIELD: LTA women's satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Second round: L Ahl bt S Portomenko (Russ) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, M Mau bt A Linkova (Russ) 6-1, 7-5, B Schwartz (Aus) bt D Huber (US) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, N Dechy (Fr) bt E Kulkovskaya (Russ) 7-6, 6-3, L Giroud (Fr) bt J Lutrova (Russ) 6-4, 6-2, K Hand bt F Lushman 1-6, 6-3, 6-1; O Barabanschikova (Belo) bt T Obzaler (Isr) 6-0, 7-5, O Ivanova (Russ) bt D Soboll-ova (Cz Rep) 7-6, 6-4.

SAN JOSE: Men's tournament: first round: (US unless stated): M Washington bt B Gilbert 7-6, 6-4, P McEnroe bt C van Rensburg (SA) 7-6, 6-4; J Stark bt J Salzenstein 6-1, 6-1, M Goellner (Ger) bt C Raud (Nor) 7-6, 6-2, L Rehmann (Ger) bt R Maluszewski 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; D Nargiso (It) bt S Humphries, 6-3, 7-6; A Agassi bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-0, 6-2, M Chang bt M Rios (Chile) 6-4, 7-5, B Shelton bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-4, 7-6; G Ruseedski bt R Reneberg 6-3, 6-4, J Grabb bt J Tarango 7-5, 6-4, K Thome bt J Morgan (Aus) 5-7, 7-5, 7-6.

CHICAGO: Woman's tournament: First round: (US unless stated): M A Verro (Ven) bt B Reinstadler (Ger) 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Raymond bt C Kuhlman 6-3, 6-1, L Courtois (Bel) bt K Po 6-4, 6-3, M Werdel-Witmeyer bt Y Basting (Holl) 6-4, 6-4, A Frazier bt T Whitinger Jones 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; Z Garrison-Jackson bt A Keller 6-1, 6-0, M Kotcha (Ger) bt K Adams 7-6, 6-2, L McNeil bt R Nideiter 6-2, 6-2; C Rubin bt S Amaich (Fr) 6-2, 6-1, E Likhovtseva (Kaz) bt S Jayaseelan (Can) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS

UTTLEWOODS: Treble chance: (Rule 9 (c) (ii) applied): 23½pts £71,428.55, 23 £1,734.10, 22½ £249.85; 22 £44.10; 21½ £19.50, 21 £3.95 Six dividends only see rule 9(ii). Four draws: £2.45. Ten homes: £9,612.00. Five aways: £116.55

VERNONS: Treble chance: 23½pts £43,467.40; 23 £573.65, 22½ £69.20; 22 £11.80, 21½ £3.25 21 £1.10 Ten homes (nothing barred, paid on nine correct). £334.60 Five aways (nothing barred) £22.35

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 23½pts £6,489.20, 23 £117.10; 22 £17.35pts, 22 £3.30; 21½ £0.90 Four draws: £3.20 Four super homes: £860.80 Four aways: £14.00. Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 36, 13, 3, 28

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Defeated French cast envious eyes at English system

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN JEAVONS-FELLOWS may permit himself a wry smile when he hears of the detailed debate over the French domestic season, which has followed the defeat by England last Saturday. Jeavons-Fellows is the chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) competitions sub-committee, and thus the butt of criticism in the club v country issue this season.

After defeats by England, England A and England Students last weekend, however, the French believe that the structure on this side of the Channel to be far better than their own, oversized club championship, which is due for extension next season. Only last month, in fact, representatives of the two countries exchanged views on their respective structures and have the chance to do so again this weekend when meetings of the four home unions and the five nations are held in London. The RFU will sponsor a firm proposal to move the five nations' championship back a fortnight, which they hope will draw general support for the first time.

Events have conspired to help, in that the matches on January 21 were played in dreadful weather in Paris and Dublin, whereas February 4 offered beautiful conditions at Twickenham and Murrayfield. Would that the weather could be annually guaranteed.

France are likely to support the move which, if accepted, would not come into force until the 1997-98 season. The French are also likely to confirm their individual bid to host the 1999 World Cup, leaving the home unions to wrestle among themselves how best to go forward to the presentations to be made in Bristol on March 11 to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) by those who want to stage the tournament.

It is the board's belief that the requirements of the tender document may reduce the number of contenders.

There will be scope for only one nominal host country, and it remains to be seen whether the home unions — with different legal jurisdictions in Scotland and Ireland and different tax structures in Ireland — can make an effective bid together, or whether Wales and England may link more effectively.

The IRFB will announce the venue for the 1999 tournament at its annual meeting next month, by which time its working party on amateurism will also have studied the latest proposals from Australia. According to reports, a three-tier system is to be introduced to the Australian national squad with payments ranging from £40,000 to £10,000; 35 players would sign one-year contracts which obliged them to undertake promotional work.

Such contracts would refer only to off-field activities, but clearly would be professional enough to limit losses to rugby league and to act as a lure for the Pacific islanders.

Meanwhile, the England management will discuss the Rugby World Cup edict over the arrangements for the tournament this summer when it meets this weekend. John Elliott, the national selector, said yesterday that an appeal to the tournament's disputes committee was an option, but it is more likely that England will reluctantly accept the requirement to move to altitude if they are successful in the pool matches on the coast.

Elliott, who gives up his honorary post in July to become the RFU's playing development officer, is likely to be succeeded as manager of the England under-21 side by Jeff Probyn, the Wasps and former England prop, who serves on the RFU's laws working party.

England have made six changes (one positional) for the student international with Wales in Swansea on February 17. Richard Bramley returns after injury to captain the side, which has lost three forwards to the England Emerging Players that will meet Romania A in West Hartlepool on the same day.

ENGLAND STUDENTS (v Welsh Students): T Stimpson (Durham), J Naylor (Wigan and Leigh College), M Allen (Loughborough), M Denney (Bristol), A Healey (Leeds Metropolitan), N Ryan (Wigan and Leigh College), A Gomersall (Oxford Brookes), W Green (Oxford Brookes), C Johnson (Loughborough), M Long (Northumbria), A Metcalfe (Cambridge), C Yandell (Swansea), R Bramley (Cambridge, capt), N Richardson (Cambridge), E Rollitt (Cambridge). Replacements: M Singer (Bristol), S Howard (West London HE), S Johnson (Bath), D Mace (Oxford Brookes), A Reuben (Bristol), G Webster (Loughborough)

Scots rally behind young pretenders

BY MARK SOUSTER

THE Scotland rugby union selectors yesterday announced an unchanged team, for the third match in succession, to meet France in the five nations' championship on Saturday week, a luxury they have not enjoyed since the heady days of 1990. The selection, though, was far from a formality.

Despite back-to-back wins against Canada and Ireland, Duncan Paterson, the team manager, said that it had taken more than two hours to choose the side that will attempt to end Scotland's abysmal record in Paris, where they have not won since 1969, never at Parc des Princes.

The main areas of concern are at centre and right wing, with Tony Stanger and Derek Stark narrowly missing out on international recalls. In the end, though, the selectors felt that their relatively young side should be given time to develop. "They showed a lot of character in coming back against Ireland in the second half," Paterson said.

The fact that the Scots have been able to pick and choose at all represents an upturn in their fortunes and a vindication of the A-team policy.

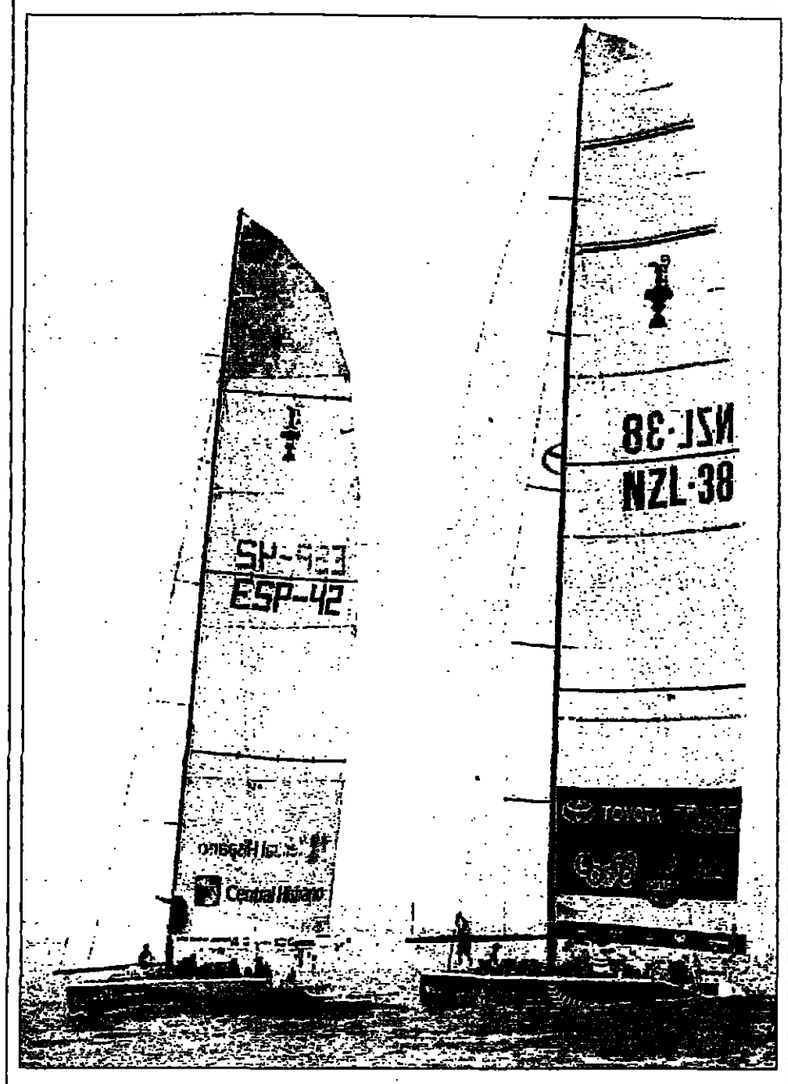
Stanger, now rehabilitated at centre, scored two tries for Scotland A against Ireland A last Friday and must be considered unlucky not to be adding to his 26 caps. Ian Jardine and Gregor Townsend have yet to prove a convincing pairing in midfield, with Townsend's inexperience at outside centre exposed by Ireland at Murrayfield. Craig Joiner's try probably saved him from the axe at the expense of Stark, the Boroughmuir flier who has scored 13 tries in his past five games.

Of Scotland's walking wounded, and there are several, the most significant news from Murrayfield yesterday surrounded Gary Armstrong. The Jed-Forest scrum half, who damaged knee ligaments in pre-season training, is due to meet the Scottish Rugby Union surgeon on Sunday along with Andy Nichol, his fellow No 9.

Armstrong was not expected to play again until September, but Paterson dropped a hint that, if the prognosis is good, a comeback could be brought forward in time for the World Cup.

SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (Watsonians, captain), C A Joiner (Melrose), G P J Townsend (Gala), I C Jardine (Stirling County), K M Logan (Stirling County), C M Chalmers (Melrose), B W Redpath (Melrose), D I W Hilton (Bath), K S Milne (Heriot's FP), P H Wright (Boroughmuir), D F Cronin (Bourges), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), R I Wainwright (West Hartlepool), E W Peters (Bath), I R Morrison (London Scottish) Replacements: I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), A G Stiel (Melrose), D W Patterson (West Hartlepool), G W Weir (Melrose), A P Burnell (London Scottish), K D McKenzie (Stirling County)

Blake boasts unbeaten record



Peter Blake's *Team New Zealand*, right, completed the second round of the America's Cup yachting challenge series undefeated after beating the hapless Spanish entry, *Rioja de España*, by almost 21 minutes yesterday. The record for the most victories, however, goes to the Japanese entry, *Nippon 94*, which made the most of the light winds off San Diego on Tuesday to defeat Syd Fischer's entry, *Australia 95*, by 32 minutes to maintain fourth place in the overall standings. The French also had a bad day. Their new boat, *France 3*, funded by $25 million worth of government tax credits, lost to Chris Dickson's promising New Zealand entry, *Tag Heuer Challenge*, which is one of the poorest syndicates on a budget of $9 million. The French, who had trouble enough beating the Spanish on Monday, look unlikely to win through to the semi-finals unless dramatic changes are made to the boat and its sails. They lie fifth overall. On the defenders' course, Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* defeated the all-women crew on *America³*. The lead changed four times before Mahaney secured the victory that puts him level with Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* in first place.

Results, page 44

SPORT IN BRIEF

Call for change in way boxing is run

ROCK NEWMAN, the manager of Riddick Bowe, a former world champion, yesterday called for the bodies that run world boxing to be scrapped and for them to be replaced by one organisation (Srikumar Sen writes). Newman, speaking from Washington to British journalists on a conference call line, claimed that the World Boxing Council (WBC), the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation had forfeited legitimacy by ignoring Bowe in top ten rankings and placing a contender like Bruce Seldon at No 2. Bowe had knocked out Seldon in one round and defeated Oliver McCall, the WBC champion, in two rounds.

Newman wants a panel of 11, comprising independent boxing experts, journalists, doctors and government officials, to take control under one commissioner. He said that influential people in boxing were backing his call.

Commitment increases

EQUESTRIANISM: Frizzell, the insurance and banking group, has more than doubled its commitment to British eventing with the announcement yesterday that it is putting "in excess of £250,000" into the sport this year (Jenny MacArthur writes). The company is increasing its support of the British three-day event team to £51,000, is continuing its sponsorship of two international riders — Lucinda Murray and Mary Thomson — and its support of the British novice championships and medical support used at horse trials, and is embarking on a new venture, the Frizzell training final.

England on song

CRICKET: England Under-19 completed a 2-1 victory in their series of one-day internationals against West Indies Under-19, in Bridgetown, Barbados, yesterday. Singh, of Warwickshire, wrapped things up in style by hitting a magnificent 130 off 116 balls, which gave England Under-19 victory by 90 runs. In addition, Singh was named man of the series. He hit ten fours and four sixes as England Under-19 finished on 278 for six. West Indies Under-19, in reply, were all out for 188.

Foreman boxes clever

BOXING: George Foreman has said that he will defend his world heavyweight title against Axel Schulz, 26, of Germany, on April 22. "The fight is firmly in the bag," Foreman, 46, told a German television station yesterday. Foreman, who holds the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation versions of the title, looked in danger of losing his WBA title for boxing Schulz instead of its highest-ranked available contender. However, he claimed that final approval was "only a formality".

Boone eases through

RACKETS: Willie Boone, the former world champion, cruised through to the quarter-finals of the Lacoste British Open at the Queen's Club, London with a gritty victory against Richard Montgomerie, the Northamptonshire cricketer, yesterday. Boone, 44, who had just returned from winning the United States amateur championship, was far too powerful and experienced for his younger opponent, a former winner of the Foster Cup.

Wattana's resolve overcomes Williams

BY PHIL YATES

JAMES WATTANA'S imperturbable temperament was the key to his 5-4 victory over Mark Williams in the second round of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Not for the first time this season, Wattana failed to approach his best, and, for long periods, he looked vulnerable. However, spurred on by a desire to make amends for his early exit from the Regal We'sh Open last month, he fought hard and concentrated intensely. "I wasn't cueing well, but I was determined to hang on in there until the end," Wattana said. "I must admit that I was a little nervous, and I'm lucky to still be in the tournament."

Williams, the world No 58, who beat Willie Thorne 5-0 in the first round, looked capable of causing another upset when he led 2-0 and 3-1. Runs of 32 and 34 enabled Williams, 19, from Ebbw Vale, to win the first frame, and he added the second when Wattana, on a 44 break and 32 points ahead, missed a short-range red. Williams put together a 61 clearance to the pink, and also won an error-strewn fourth frame.

However, Wattana won the fifth frame with a late run of 47 after Williams missed a straightforward red, and the world No 3 levelled at 3-3 by taking a low-scoring sixth frame, before an 87 break in the seventh earned him the lead for the first time.

A run of 72 from Williams carried the contest into a deciding ninth frame, which Wattana won comfortably.

Wattana, who has practised for 11 hours a day for the past fortnight, will play Jimmy White tonight for a place in the semi-finals, and will be hoping he can reproduce his recent practice form. Since arriving back in Britain from his native Thailand last month, Wattana has compiled five 147 maximum breaks, taking his total to 125.

Even though his opponent was suffering from a virus and almost withdrew, White, who has also struggled this season, will draw encouragement from his 5-2 victory over Joe Swail on Tuesday night.

RESULTS: Second round: J White (Eng) bt J Swail (N Ire) 5-2; J Wattana (Thai) bt M Williams (Wales) 5-4

Grave end for bad habits

FROM MEL WEBB IN LAS PALMAS

A COUPLE of weeks ago, Severiano Ballesteros dropped in on Mac o'Grady, his coach, in Palm Springs to prepare himself for a season in which he intends once again to be a contender in the four major championships of world golf. So did they take a few video sequences, beat some balls, generally fine tune the great man's swing? No. They went to a funeral.

Ballesteros, who makes his first appearance on European soil this season in the Canary Islands Open that starts at Maspalomas today, seemed remarkably cheerful for a man who had just buried somebody. But then came the punchline. The victim of the interment was, he said, Severiano Ballesteros — the good old, bad old Severiano Ballesteros.

"Mac and I took a shoe box and put a pile of pictures of all my bad habits in it, drove out into the desert, dug a hole and put the box in it," he said. "We conducted a funeral, and then prayed for two minutes that I should catch my second wind in my career." It was easy to understand why Ballesteros would want to improve on his 1994 campaign — he did, after all, win only £590,000 in Europe to finish third in the money-list; poor chap.

The precise words to describe O'Grady do not as yet exist in the English language. He is wacky, certainly; an oddball, beyond question; and there is also, without doubt, a powerful strain of wild and wonderful barminess running through his veins. Yet he is also the man who Ballesteros trusts above all when it comes to the analysis of his golf swing — perhaps only true genius can recognise genius in others, no matter how eccentrically it is packaged.

Ballesteros, in any case, seems to understand most of what O'Grady is saying to him, and that, be assured, is an achievement in itself. The Spaniard has described his American mentor as the best teacher in the world, no less, and when Ballesteros speaks in such glowing terms it would take a dimwit not to listen.

Ballesteros's teach-in with O'Grady took place after he had made his first appearance of the season, in the Johnnie Walker Classic in the Philippines. He worked for four hours a day strengthening his back, which has brought him a professional lifetime of problems. He lifted weights, did sit-ups and stretches and also worked on his driving and chipping, which he and O'Grady had identified as needing special attention.

This will be his last European appearance before he defends his Benson and Hedges title at St Mellion in May, although he is to play in four American tournaments in preparing for his attempt to win his third US Masters at Augusta National in April.

Facing opposition from such as the consistent David Gilford, Gordon Brand Jr, Miguel Angel Jiménez and Joakim Haeggman, Ballesteros said he is playing here merely to get a feel for competition again, and is not expecting anything much more. If you believe that, you will believe just about anything.

Ramu halts England's advance

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN DELHI

ENGLAND'S hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals of the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament here disappeared yesterday with a 1-1 draw against Malaysia, who scored the equaliser two minutes before the end.

England enjoyed more territorial advantage, with Crutchley running strongly on the left wing and Conway lending support in the middle. Hazlitt, the captain, was a tower of strength in deep defence and Kalbir Takher dominated play in midfield to earn the prize for the man of the match.

Calum Giles, who had lifted England in the previous match, against India, spent most of his time yesterday on the bench and came into action only for the set pieces. He put England ahead from their first short corner, in the 28th minute, with a wristy flick to the top of the net.

Shanker Ramu, who played for Cannock two seasons ago in the national league, equalised in the 68th minute.

India, who defeated Kazakhstan 6-1, and Kazakhstan qualified for the semi-finals from pool A. South Korea, the Asian Games champions, have qualified from pool B and the remaining place will be decided today when Australia play South Africa.

POOL A: Final positions: 1, India 5pts; 2, Kazakhstan 4; 3, England 2; 4, Malaysia 1

☐ Oxford University, preparing for the match against Cambridge at Reading on February 28, defeated the Army 2-1 at home yesterday. Cambridge, also at home, beat the Royal Air Force 2-1.

SPORTS LETTERS

English academies do exist

From Mr W. Morris

Sir, At all levels, the youth of this country is the victim of an obsession with academic results. One shudders to think of the talents in other areas which are no longer nurtured.

We hear of the success of the Australian Cricket Academy. Once upon a time, we had two such academies of our own in this country. They still exist but they need some restoration.

The Oxford and Cambridge teams should be playing in the county championship for the whole of the season, using the splendid facilities which already exists in the Parks and at Fenner's. The best of the country's young players should participate and study according to their academic abilities. There would be no need for the future Cowdrey and Trueman to over-concern themselves with Jebb's Greater and Extended Commentary on Sophocles's *Antigone*, but if they should be inclined to do so, then they can.

The outstanding young players of each generation would have the chance to compete for real in the first-class game without waiting for the old county professionals to serve their time. The counties would have more of a choice between the cricketing graduates and the promising overseas players.

Primarily, the universities are, of course, academic institutions, but there should also be room for the pursuit of excellence in the other activities which contribute to the make up of a civilised society. Cricket is part of the life of this nation.

Let the MCC take the initiative. The success of the Campaign for Oxford suggests that funding for the necessary endowments and scholarships will be forthcoming. The talent and resources are there; let them be used.

Yours etc.,
W. MORRIS,
6 Grange Road, Chiswick, W4.

England turn law too far

From Mr D. J. Watkins

Sir, There is no doubt that everything the English rugby team does on the pitch has been very well thought through and practised to perfection to the limits of their ability and the laws. In the set pieces, where they always have at least parity, their scrum — and, as such, possession — frequently seems to turn through 90 degrees more by their choice than by the disruptive strength of the opposition.

The No 8, patently in control of the ball, chooses not to release in the knowledge that a scrum will be reformed, the put-in retained, and the option to retain (delay) or release starts all over again. As the main object of a scrum is to restart play, and the manoeuvre is designed to delay that moment, is that not time-wasting and therefore a penalty offence?

Yours sincerely,
D. J. WATKINS,
4 Faro Close,
Bickley,
Kent.

Small demands

From Mr C. J. Burley

Sir, The catalogue of injuries sustained by England's cricketers in Australia brought to mind the views of a former captain regarding players' fitness.

He wrote: "Cricket does not make great demands in the way of fitness or training from its devotees."

The author of these pearls of wisdom was Douglas Jardine and I am quoting his book *Cricket*, published in 1936 and edited by Howard Marshall as part of a series entitled "Modern Sports".

Jardine went on to mention a few of the priorities he encouraged in his own players and I list one or two that our present crop of players might follow with advantage:

1. On getting up, the first 30 seconds should be spent cleaning the teeth and rinsing the mouth.
2. Regularity and moderation in eating and drinking are all that the cricketer need bother about providing he goes to bed and gets up at reasonable hours.
3. A short, brisk walk before breakfast.

Finally, he states: "Whatever the causes, it is a fact that fast bowlers today do not emulate the feats of endurance which were comparatively common among bowlers of this type in the early days of the Century".

Yours faithfully,
C. J. BURLEY,
Cedar Hill,
Mount Durand,
St Peter Port, Guernsey.

Cup demeaned

From Mr Ron Pidgeon

Sir, Why does Rob Hughes (February 1, 2) demean the stature of the European Super Cup, which has thrilled large crowds for many years and produced an intriguing evening's entertainment at Highbury last week?

This was between two teams, Arsenal and AC Milan, which he accused of glorifying in the banality of depressing football.

Anyone who watched AC Milan thrashing Barcelona 4-0 in the European Cup Final last season, or who has watched Ian Wright's scintillating runs in recent years, will wonder whether Hughes has lost his senses.

And how could he tell the world to "forget the Super Cup ... think only of Paul Merson". The 38,000 crowd did not pay some £500,000 of hard-earned money to watch Merson run out as substitute; they paid to watch two of the world's greatest clubs and many of Europe's greatest players.

Yours etc.,
RON PIDGEON,
44 Rocks Park Road,
Uckfield,
East Sussex.

Butt of abuse

From Mr James Spencer, QC

Sir, Since the time that football was first played in front of a crowd, there has been spectator abuse of the foulest kind directed towards the field. Abuse concerning the participant's honesty, sanity, faculties and parentage — more vile than that reported to have been directed at Eric Cantona.

I have never heard of a referee, the target of such abuse, attacking a spectator.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SPENCER,
11 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Enough said

From Mr Grant Phillips

Sir, Has anyone asked Tim Rodber if he can bat?

Yours faithfully,
GRANT PHILLIPS,
5 West Ilsey House,
West Ilsley,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Hungry sorties

From Professor Laurence Kitchin

Sir, I was fortunate enough to have been present at two crises of the late Fred Perry's career: his breakthrough to prominence and his last singles match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The first was on a hard court at Queen's Club in a semi-final against G. P. Hughes, which Hughes was expected to win but was swept aside. The final against H. W. Austin ended in Perry's defeat, overcome by immaculate baseline accuracy on a surface too slow for Perry's hungry sorties to the net.

The second occasion found Perry facing J. H. Crawford in the Davis Cup final at Wimbledon in 1936 at 2-2 in the match. Leading by two sets to love, Perry remained on court, head bowed in concentration, during the interval, before surging to victory and striding off the Centre Court for ever.

Thirty years later, I met Perry for the first and only time when he was playing an exhibition match at the Heights Casino in Brooklyn. Meaning to congratulate him on that fine match with Austin, I referred to it, whereupon he glared resentfully and barked, "Yes! And he beat me!"

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KITCHIN,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.

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Christopher Irvine finds history repeating itself in the Challenge Cup

Beverley emerge from shadow of 1909

JUSTIN SLEE



Casey, whose coaching has revived memories of giant-killing days gone by, looks forward to the game with Batley on Sunday

Comets appear more frequently than giant-killing acts in rugby league, and Beverley were tired of being fêted as the first and last amateur side to beat professional opposition in the Challenge Cup. Since 1909, the tag has hung like a millstone around the neck of the National Conference League side. Other than an appearance in the Yorkshire Cup Final two years ago, Beverley have had a barren time.

Yet a cup reputation now precedes the junior Humberside club again, after its 27-4 dismissal of Highfield in the third round of the Silk Cut competition last month. At the Beverley Town Recreation and Cricket Club — a home shared with cricket, tennis, squash and bowls — a photograph of the heroes of today will soon hang alongside the sepia-printed image of the 1909 side that defeated Ebbw Vale 7-2.

"It's OK being a historical footnote, but, at every away ground, you get fed-up of the programme notes constantly harping back to 1909," John Marson, who helped revive Beverley in 1980 after the club had been defunct for 12 years, said. "I wonder if they'll be referring to this side in 86 years."

If ever a professional side was at risk from history being repeated, it was Highfield. Against the perennial second division losers, the scale of Beverley's away victory was perhaps a greater surprise. Optimism about advancement to the last 16 at the expense of Batley on Sunday is high in the market town.

There are no stands for an anticipated attendance of 3,000, so a fleet of buses will ferry people to the match at Hull's ground at the Boulevard. The eight-mile trip separates the rugby league heartland of Hull from a town steeped in horse racing and rugby union. A lack of tradition for the sport perhaps explains why just four of the side hail from Beverley itself.

But times are changing, and Beverley's rugby league club is announcing its presence as loudly as it can with an approach to public relations that would be a lesson to many a professional club. Financially, the club is thriving, with a 17-strong committee managing a healthy sponsorship, advertising and revenue turnover, and it is spreading the word in an effort to promote more home-grown players, assisting local schools to take up rugby league and operating a thriving junior section.

Since its initial rebirth as a pub team 15 years ago, the club has had a rather nomadic existence. Until 1990, home was Beverley racecourse. "We used the jockey's changing-rooms — not satisfactory, really," Marson said. "In 1985, we were down to nine players for one match. Somehow, they [the players] managed to win. I think if they'd lost, we would have packed it in."

Loss of players, such as Len Casey, who joined Hull and made 14 appearances for Great Britain, prompted Beverley's closure 27 years ago. Casey, however, has returned to his sporting roots and, in a third season as coach, has transformed playing fortunes.

"It was a case before of a beer, then the match," Marson said. "Len has them training two or three nights a week." Casey reached Wembley twice with Hull Kingston Rovers, winning in 1980 and losing the following year, but the feat at Highfield was every bit as satisfying. Indeed, it nearly did not happen, as Normanton won the sides' second-round match, but, because both had fielded ineligible players, Beverley won the replayed tie and escaped with a £500 fine.

Casey runs a pub near the Boulevard, but he has rarely set foot there since resigning as coach of Hull after defeat in the 1988 Challenge Cup semi-finals.

He likes the irony of the situation now and that, in Jeff Grayshon, from Batley, he will be pitting his coaching wits against a friend and room-mate on the 1979 tour to Australia — "We'll see if Jeffrey has any wit!"

Under his charge, Casey has a young and mobile pack and invaluable experience in Paul Hunter, the goal-kicking loose forward, and Ray Stead, at full back, another former professional player.

Even though Batley, third in the second division, are a far different proposition to Highfield, Casey remains upbeat. "It's been done twice, both times by Beverley, and we wouldn't be bothering if we didn't think we could win," he said. "Instead of Wigan, I think everyone will be listening out for our results on Sunday ... and we wouldn't mind them in the next round."



The Beverley team of 1900-01 could look forward to making its mark in rugby league

British-based players favoured by France

FRANCE have selected three British-based players in their team to play England in the John Smith's European championship match in Gateshead on Wednesday.

They are Laurent Lucchese, the Sheffield Eagles three-quarter, who wins his first cap, Daniel Divet, the Featherstone second row forward, and Patrick Entat, the Leeds scrum half. Frederic Banquet, the Featherstone wing, looks set to gain a place on the bench. David Fraisse, the Bradford Northern centre, is out injured.

Ellery Hanley, the England coach, whose side last week lost 18-16 to Wales in the opening championship match, is expected to announce his squad tomorrow.

FRANCE: S Millet (St Gaudens); J-M Garcia (St Estève), P Chamorin (St Estève), D Despin (Limoux), L Lucchese (Sheffield); P Fages (Lia), P Entat (Leeds); K Jaawuo (Pia), S Tena (XIII Catalan), C Baudouin (Carpentras), D Divet (Featherstone), D Cabestany (XIII Catalan, captain), J Pech (Pia) Substitutes (from) É Attia (Cannes), F Banquet (Featherstone), P Bomati (XIII Catalan), P Jampy (St Estève), C Sirvent (St Gaudens).

☐ Castleford yesterday lodged a protest with the Rugby Football League over the treatment of Dean Sampson, their prop forward. The Yorkshire club is furious after being told that the England-Wales game last week will not count towards the four-match ban on Sampson, even though he was named in the England squad.

Oarsmen fight rising tide

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

IF ROWING ergometers could be linked to the national grid, electricity prices probably would fall. With the country's rivers generally in a state of alert in the past fortnight, thousands of rowing men, not fortunate enough to have the London Tideway as their home, have been in a state of limbo and pulling untold wattages into non-moveable indoor rowing machines.

It is a difficult time for club coaches. The National Rivers Authority issues warnings about floodwater but does not actually ban rowing. The final decision lies with the individual club.

The problem is that conditions vary when there is flooding, as does the competency of the crews which might be tempted to go afloat. Some reaches of rivers suffer a lethal stream when the waters rise. Others, well away from weirs with a surrounding flood plain, are probably safer in the winter floods than in the summer, when the same stretch is crowded with fleets of pleasure launches.

Leading British crews are coping in different ways, the most fortunate being Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, who are training in Australia with Rupert Obholzer and Tim Foster. Peter Haining, the world champion lightweight sculler, is in Hong Kong.

The Boat Race crews, with their annual contest looming, have different problems. Cambridge, who sometimes bewail the boredom of their Fens water, have no problems when it floods. Drainage channels keep their river usable.

Steve Royle, the Oxford rowing director, closed the Isis nearly two weeks ago to all crews, the ban finally being lifted yesterday for first college eights only. This has clearly led to lack of preparation for the Oxford Torpids races, which are only two weeks away. The Oxford Boat Race squad has been rowing at Henley and transferred last weekend to Nottingham for a three-day training stint at the National Watersports Centre.

Other less fortunate national squad oarsmen are having to adapt. Leander have been boating only coxed fours and eights at Henley, and have resorted even to training on bicycles.

Members of the London-based national sculling squad, under Terry O'Neill, the new coach, have been suffering from the influx of upriver crews to the tidal reaches and evacuated to the quieter Docklands course last weekend.

Rowers love the water, but clearly they have been having too much of a good thing.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

PECULANT

(c) That practices embezzlement or peculation, an adaptation of the Latin *peculantem*, the present participle of *peculari* to embezzle. "Conveying large sums of money into their own pockets without having to resort to the clumsy methods practised by peculant contractors in the Napoleonic wars."

POGONION

(b) Anatomy, the foremost point on the midline of the chin, from the Greek *pōgōn* a beard. "Mandibular length is of particular interest following mandibular osteotomy and it was measured from articulare to pogonion on cephalometric radiographs, using calipers."

REBAB

(a) A plucked or bowed stringed instrument of Arabian origin, now in use in North Africa and the Middle East, and among the Islamic populations of the Indian sub-continent, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

SANSA

(a) An African musical instrument consisting of a wooden box having at the top tongues of bamboo or iron which the performer vibrates with his thumb and forefingers, an adaptation of the Arabic *ṣanj*, Persian *sinj* cymbals.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

White wins with 1. g4!, which leaves Black without a good reply. The trap is 1. Rd1, which looks good, but fails to the simple 1, ... h6, when 2. Rxd5 is met by 2, ... Re1 mate.

Agassi gets back to business

ANDRE AGASSI, the No 1 seed, cruised, but Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, stumbled, before securing victories in the first round of the San Jose Open tennis tournament late on Tuesday.

Agassi, fresh from winning the Australian Open title, reeled off the first eight games on the way to a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Fernando Meligeni, of Brazil. Chang hit a bumpy patch in the second set before outplaying Marcelo Rios, of Chile, 6-4, 7-5 in a baseline battle.

Agassi, 24, was anxious to get back to business after taking a week off after his victory in Melbourne. "I couldn't wait to get back on court," Agassi, the world No 2 behind Pete Sampras, said; but he was surprised at the way in which he dominated Meligeni, the world No 85, and won in just 53 minutes.

"It's tough to beat anybody 6-0, 6-2," Agassi said after winning 57 of 89 points.

Chang displayed a 124mph service and an unrelenting groundstroke game to take the opening set. Yet the world No 6 fell behind 5-2 to Rios, 19, before reeling off the next five games for victory.

In another first round match, Bryan Shelton, of the United States, beat Arnaud Boetsch, of France, the No 4 seed, 6-4, 7-6.

Ivanisevic falls prey to familiar demons

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GORAN IVANISEVIC is driven by fires as unpredictable as they are, at times, irresistible and, despite his years chasing honours at the highest level of men's tennis, he shows no sign of being able to control them. Yesterday, when the powerful Croatian took his bow in the first round of the Dubai Open, was a perfect exmaple.

When Ivanisevic broke to lead 3-1 and then took the opening set of his match with Andrea Gaudenzi, of Italy, for the loss of only four points on his service, he seemed on the way to a comfortable victory. Then, however, Gaudenzi, unseeded and unfancied, saved two break points as the second set got under way, broke to lead 2-0 and Ivanisevic fell prey to his own demons as much as his opponent and slumped to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 defeat. It was, he said afterwards, a "painful encounter".



Ivanisevic erratic

Even in the third set, Ivanisevic had his chances. Gaudenzi broke his service in the opening game and he looked uncomfortable, lost his rhythm and missed too many first services. Then, suddenly, he seemed revitalised and broke back for 3-3 — and then, just as suddenly, Ivanisevic lost his way again. Gaudenzi played steadily from the baseline, broke back for a 4-3 lead and Ivanisevic, who had already banged his racket twice in frustration, received a warning for ball abuse in the next game.

The dispirited Croatian won just one more point before sliding to defeat and promptly threatened to pull out of the doubles — where, in a most delicious irony, he is partnering Gaudenzi — claiming that he had aggravated a foot injury. He then changed his mind and decided to play.

"I am disappointed; I've lost my confidence and cannot win a match," Ivanisevic said. "I am fighting too much with myself. After the first set, I was playing like someone was holding a gun to my head. I was too fast and there was no need. I have problems with my foot. I was taking injections during the Davis Cup."

Gaudenzi was delighted with the victory. "I was pretty frustrated after the first set because I thought I had no chance on his service games, but I kept focused and the early break in the second set gave me confidence," he said.

RADIO CHOICE

Shop talk on the cheap

Soundtrack: Two Jolly Swagmen. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

I would not have said Paul and Matthew sound particularly jolly. But as they do refer to themselves as swagmen, half the title's quotation from "Waltzing Matilda" is verbally apt, though not functionally accurate. There is nothing of the tramp about these two. They jointly run a shop in Sheffield. It is at the bottom end of the market. Cheap goods are their stock in trade, imported mostly from the Far East. By their own admission, some of their stock is absolute rubbish. *Soundtrack* follows their variable fortunes in the run-up to the spending spree we call Christmas. Most of their kitchen sink scourers are bought by men. Does this tell us something about sexual equality?

I Luv You Jimmy Spud. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

You will instantly detect a special quality about Lee Hall's funny-sad play about a pre-teenage Geordie appointed by Gabriel as a trainee guardian angel. It is a quality that was recognised by the judges who awarded Hall a BBC North bursary award last year. Young Jimmy Spud is played — and uncannily well played — by Gareth Brown, whose age probably approximates to that of the lad whose unnatural goodness offends his fractious parents. His testing time comes when his father (Dave Whitaker) is stricken with lung cancer. The supernatural element in this play is handled with humour and a total absence of mawkishness.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright in the Morning 9.00 Simon Mayo: with God of the Week, Berry Gordon, founder of the Motown label 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including The Amazing Spiderman, and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session Lamacq 9.00 Soundbite: This week, Bill Drummond of KLF reveals the song that changed his life 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy with the Early Show 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart, including the Accumulator Quiz 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedienne: Betty Marsden (4/7) 7.30 David Allan 9.00 Paul Jones: featuring a session from the American guitarist Duke Robillard and his band 10.00 From Taunton to Tennessee and Back 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden with Night Ride 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, including at 9.40 Film Review; 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 Inverdale in Moscow 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 sport 7.35 Women on Top 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 *Carapace* 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 From Our Own Correspondent 9.30 The Farming World 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Quote, Unquote 11.00 Newsdesk 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Multitrack: X-Press 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: *Carapace* 2.45 The Learning World 3.00 World News 3.15 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 On the Move 7.45 Farming 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Network UK 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Quote, Unquote 12.00 News 12.15am Music Review 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Scott Fitzgerald Stories 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 The Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert: Music by Rossini 10.00 Mark Griffiths 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyte 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00am Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 **On Air**: Handel (The King shall rejoice); Poulenc (Trois Novelettes); Rosetti (Horn Concerto in E-flat); Tchaikovsky (Overture: Hamlet); Sarasate (Navarra); Elgar, orch Gordon Jacob (Organ Sonata)
9.00 **Composer of the Week**: Strauss (Oboe Concerto in D; Metamorphosen)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**, with Edward Blakeman. *Artist of the Week*: John Williams, guitar; Astor Piazzolla (Tango, Verano porteno); 10.05 Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488); Nigel Westlake (Suite, Antartica: John Williams; London Symphony Orchestra under Paul Daniel); Philippe Gaubert (Trois aquarelles); Sibelius (The Oceanides)
12.00 **Ensemble**: Paul Lewis, piano. Beethoven (Sonata in C, Op 53, Waldstein); Chopin (Scherzo in E); Liszt (Mephisto Waltz No 1) (r)
1.00pm **Brass Roots**: Paul Hindmarsh investigates how the brass band started. With the American Quintet Brass Band and the London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble
2.00 **Schools**: Radio Q and A 2.05 In the News 2.25 Something to Think About — Infant Assemblies 2.40 Music Workshop — Music Course 3 Orpheus
3.00 **The BBC Orchestras**: BBC Philharmonic under Gunther Herbig and Sachio Fujioka. Yoshimatsu (Threnody for Toki); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E flat)
4.30 **Choral Voices**: Andrew Green investigates the best of Britain's amateur choirs: Featuring the Fair City Singers, the Berkshire Youth Choir and the Colne Valley Male Voice Choir
5.00 **The Music Machine**, with Tommy Pearson
5.15 **In Tune**, with David Owen Norris. Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C minor, Pathétique); Schubert (Adagio, String Quartet in D minor); Stravinsky (Symphony in C, first movement)
7.30 **Hallé Orchestra** under George Benjamin. Ravel (Alborado del gracioso); Messiaen (Réveil des oiseaux); Benjamin (Sudden Time); 8.15 Andriessen on Stravinsky: Michael Oliver talks to the Dutch composer Louis Andriessen (r); 8.35 Stravinsky (Petrushka)
9.20 **Fairest Isle — The English Cadence**: Jeremy Summerly investigates Purcell's use of the false relation
9.35 **Hellenic Influences**: Eleftheria Kotzia, guitar, performs Milliaresis (Variations on Tsakonikos); John Tavener (Chant); Stephen Dodgson (Three Attic Dances); Mikis Theodorakis (Epitaphs)
10.15 **Oster's Blues**: Professor Harry Oster introduces the music of bluesmen (r).
10.45 **Night Waves**, with Christopher Cook
11.30-12.30am **Voices**: A portrait in words and music of the piano accompanist Geoffrey Parsons
1.00-2.30 **Night School** Let's Make a Story 1.30 Music Box 2.00 Ghostwriter

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Rev Stephen Wigley 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day, with Vincent Nichols 7.55 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Face the Facts**, with John Waite (r)
9.30 **Never the Same Again**: Jenni Mills talks to families about how they have weathered periods of crisis
10.00-10.30 **News; In the Red** (FM only): The sixth instalment of a blackly humorous murder mystery from the novel by Mark Tavener. With Michael Williams and Barry Foster
10.00 **Daily Service** (LW only)
10.15 **The Pilgrim's Progress** (LW only) (24/25) (r)
10.30 **Woman's Hour**: Dr Lorna Wing tells Jenni Murray how her own daughter's autism led to her pioneering research. Incl 11.00 News
11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm **Looking Forward to the Past**: Paul Boateng, MP, is joined by Frances Edmonds, Chris Kelly, *Times* columnist Jonathan Meades and Martin Young 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; I Luv You Jimmy Spud**: See Choice
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift**
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope**: Paul Allen reviews a revival of Alan Bennett's play, *Getting On*, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse
4.45 **Romance Season: Short Story — *The Amorous Pig***, by Jim Crawford
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **The Skivers**: Comedy sketches written and performed by Nick Golson and Tim de Jongh
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **Soundtrack**: Two Jolly Swagmen. See Choice
8.00 **Analysis**: Electrifying Democracy. Could the new interactive technologies become the driving force for a more participatory democracy?
8.45 **Bloopers**, presented by Jonathan Hewat
9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** Judy Graham presents the programme for listeners with disabilities
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Initials in the Heart**, by Laurance Whistler. The penultimate instalment (r)
11.00 **Ten Pounds and a Box of Kippers**: Paul Brennan's new comedy-drama series
11.30-12.00 **Ad Lib** (FM only): Robert Robinson talks to practising vets (r)
11.30-12.00 **Today in Parliament** (LW only)
12.00-12.43am **News**, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Seems as if it was only yesterday? It was

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Who would have guessed that Paula Yates would one day earn a decent living by inviting celebrities to her bed? Well, having been reminded what *The Big Breakfast's* recumbent interviewer used to get up to on *The Tube*, just about everyone I should think.

Appropriately then, last night the producers of **The Legend of The Tube** (Channel 4) invited Yates, together with fellow Tubee, Jools Holland, into — or to be strictly accurate — onto a big double bed, to wax nostalgic about the music show that for five years in the 1980s got the weekend off to a noisy and frequently controversial start.

This stumble down musical memory lane was occasionally endearing, as when the pair quietly held hands to reflect on how they became Channel 4's first "husband and wife" presenters, a sort of Anne and Nick to the post-punk generation. It was also regularly puzzling as they, together with assorted rock stars, flirted dangerously — and possibly deliberately — with the parody of *This is Spinal Tap*. Were we supposed to take it seriously? Rather like *The Tube* itself, it was impossible to tell.

But what the programme curiously never was, was nostalgic, which must be worrying given that it was the launch-pad for a *Best of* season.

It is tempting to say that not enough time has elapsed since *The Tube* burst (self-appointed legends always burst) on to the infant Channel 4 in 1982. But the truth is, despite the words of Paul Young's song (now there was a bit of nostalgia — whatever happened to him?) not enough has changed.

Thirteen years have passed, but Jools and Paula remain the same — both in looks and manner. Nor have fashions raced ahead in the way that consigned the early 1970s to cringe-making history from about 1978 onwards. The cigarette pants and mohair jumpers of Paul Young's backing singers would not raise a fashion-conscious eyebrow in the middle 1990s, while the aptly-named Leatherettes, more backing posers than singers to Frankie Goes to Hollywood, would fit snugly into a Sunday supplement piece on S&M imagery. As for the music — cover versions of 1980s hits are currently coming round so fast that it could have been last week.

In fact, only one thing acknowledged the passage of time — hairlines — and even then it was difficult to determine in which direction it was travelling. Sting very definitely had far more hair than he does now. Elton John, on the other hand, rather less.

Malcolm Gerrie, the producer of the original *Tube*, tried hard, recalling some "quite overweight, yobby Scots guys" they had filmed on a beach. He recalled — shock, horror — that the lead singer was wearing a huge earring — "I'm sure he'd hate to see it now". And what did we cut to? Marti Pellow and Wet Wet Wet — looking pencil slim, positively demure and with an almost invisible earring in Pellow's left ear. Nostalgia just ain't what it used to be.

Accident and emergency, however, definitely is — which explains why Channel 4 is almost certainly on to a winner with **ER**. Its creator, Michael Crichton, apparently came up with the idea for the hospital drama almost 20 years ago. Maybe it was the arrival of "four incoming wounded" by helicopter early on in last night's episode, but I found myself wondering whether he'd been watching *M*A*S*H* at the time.

For like *M*A*S*H*, and unlike *Casualty*, *ER* has a rich vein of humour, rather more than last week's plot-exhausting pilot suggested, in fact. Last night we had a lobster red man who had fallen asleep in the sun (nothing for the BBC make-up department to worry about there), the sex-mad patient with poison ivy rash on her bottom and what I can only presume was Dr Greene's wife checking that Dr Greene did not have poison ivy rash anywhere near his. Did I forget something? Oh yes, a mass outbreak of food poisoning, which began with 20 German tourists of improbable stereotype but which quickly spread to 60 similarly disadvantaged wedding guests. The nursing staff of Holby General, strictly rationed to one funny sub-plot per series, would not have been amused.

But like *M*A*S*H*, *ER* also knows exactly how to tug on the heart-strings, even with the familiar but still moving storyline of the elderly couple having finally to say goodbye. Gets me every time. Last night, the series walked the fine line between humour and humanity with some skill. But the balancing act doesn't get any easier. Still, with intra-marital and extra-marital romances bubbling along nicely and Dr Lewis still refusing to do up her white coat, a popular following looks assured.

I dare say **Crime Story: Hot Dog Wars** (ITV) also enjoyed a popular following. But am I alone in wishing it hadn't? There's something about the dramatisation of recent violent crime that leaves a nasty taste in the mouth — appropriately, I suppose, given the inedible subject matter, the murder of Gary Thompson, gangland dispenser of burgers and baps to the drunk and disorderly of the Midlands. Dramatisation or glorification — it's a close call.

Along with the nasty taste, the suspicion remains that what the producers get is cheap drama — a ready-made plot and no need for expensive stars or costumes. "Just a car, a driver and a shooter," as one of last night's eloquent band put it.

But the hour was not wholly wasted, as it featured the memorable exhortation: "This is no time to be worrying about hamburgers." I quite agreed — it wasn't.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (22151)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62841460)

9.05 Kilroy Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (9369151)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7362460) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick**. Weekday magazine (s) (88911996)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1254286) **12.05pm Pebble Mill Special**. Sir David Attenborough talks about his television career (s) (2480828) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (75562118)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (32489)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (82380267) **1.50 Timekeepers** Quiz show. The question-master is Bill Dod (82384083)

2.15 Snooker Quarter-final action from the Benson and Hedges Masters, introduced by Dougie Donnelly (s) (461199)

3.50 Jackanory. Natalie Ogle with Brian Ball's story *Magic on the Tide* (s) (3046712) **4.00 Robinson Sucroe**. (Ceefax) (2664373) **4.25 Animal Hospital Week** with Rolf Harris and Steve Knight (s) (4604118) **4.35 Sloggers**. Last in the comedy series about a young cricket XI. With a guest appearance by Geoff Boycott. (Ceefax) (s) (5873625)

5.00 Newsround (7510880) **5.10 Blue Peter**. (Ceefax) (s) (9953460)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (445267)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (422)

6.30 Regional news magazines (642)

7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (5985)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (286)

8.00 Animal Hospital Week from the RSPCA Harmsworth Hospital in Holloway, North London. This week focuses on the work of Barbara Evans, the Emergency Services Supervisor. (Ceefax) (s) (9083)

8.30 Down to Earth. Comedy series starring Richard Briers. (Ceefax) (s) (8118)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2538)



Jim Broadbent as Colonel Alfred Wintle (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Heroes and Villains: The Last Englishman**. (Ceefax) (s) (967199)

10.25 Question Time. The guests are Dr Anne Wright, vice-chancellor of Sunderland University, and MPs Alan Beith, Sir Teddy Taylor and Kate Hoey (Ceefax) (562828). **Wales**: The Slate 10.55 Question Time 11.55 Spirit of Islam 12.15am Cagney and Lacey 1.00-1.40 Snooker

11.25 Cagney and Lacey. Policewomen drama series starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly (r). (Ceefax) (106606)

12.10am Spirit of Islam. Series celebrating Ramadan. (Ceefax) (s) (7859132)

12.30 Snooker. Highlights of today's quarter-final action in the Benson and Hedges Masters from Wembley Conference Centre (s) (1919823)

1.10 Weather (4098381)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Oceanography (7834118) **6.45** Living With Technology — Food (5324915) **7.35** The Planet Earth. A Scientific Model (2013248)

8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (7761712)

8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil. The guests are Alex Salmond and Dafydd Wigley (s) (4354712)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children **10.00-10.25** Playdays (2318557) **1.45** Storytime (71194625) **2.00** Stoppit and Tidyup (41826712) **2.05** Puppydog Tales (41825083)

2.10 Next with Marti Caine. Series celebrating achievements of the elderly (61155460)

2.35 From the Edge. Current affairs series from a disabled perspective. (Ceefax) (7178373)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross** (6318335)

3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (3044354)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (915)

4.30 Snooker. Benson and Hedges Masters (41286)

6.00 Quantum Leap (r). (Ceefax) (s) (950557)

6.45 Dance for the Camera: Drip — a Narcissistic Love Story. A dance piece choreographed by Matthew Bourne and performed by Adventures in Motion Pictures (s) (959286)

7.00 Waiting for God (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8977)

7.30 First Sight: Net Profit. *EastEnder* Gillian Taylforth looks at the state of football in the South East (828). **Wales:** Dad's Army; **East:** Matter of Fact. **Midlands:** Midlands Report; **South:** Southern Eye; **South-west:** Close Up; **West:** Close Up West

8.00 Metropolis. Series on how technology has shaped the modern city. (Ceefax) (s) (7625)

8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld. Motoring in India (s) (9460)

9.00 The X Files. Two FBI agents investigate cases involving the paranormal. (Ceefax) (s) (772977)



Graduate Julie with her mother (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE **Situation Vacant: The Superstore Manager**. (Ceefax) (234373)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (507151)

11.15 Late Review with Mark Lawson (s) (492915)

11.55 Weather (858847)

12.00 Open View (2450045)

12.05am Swedish Science in the 18th Century (1057403) **12.30 The Record**. The day in Parliament (74942) Ends at **1.00**

5.00-5.15 BBC Select: Strathclyde TV — Putting You in the Picture (1829768)

5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (r) (94294)

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CHOICE

Heroes and Villains: The Last Englishman
BBC1, 9.30pm

The series on English eccentrics concludes with Colonel Alfred Wintle, soldier, writer and scourge of authority. We meet him first in 1962. He is on *Desert Island Discs* and talks so much that the engineers are worried about running out of tape. Then we flash back to the First World War and catch up on the young Wintle as a cavalry officer, soon to win the Military Cross. Badly wounded at Mons, he tries to escape from hospital dressed as a nurse. In the Second World War he is captured by the Vichy French and goes on hunger strike. Played with relish by Jim Broadbent, Wintle was certainly heroic but hardly a villain, unless you count tying up a lawyer who swindled his sister and taking saucy photographs of him.

Situation Vacant: Superstore Manager
BBC2, 9.45pm

The job application series has a slightly different format this week but the result is no less compelling. Instead of following several hopefuls competing for one job, the film concentrates on two aspirants for management traineeships with the store chain, Toys 'R' Us. The requirements are enthusiasm, personality, leadership and the willingness to work up to 100 hours a week. Julie is straight out of university and handicapped by lack of experience. Kashmir has the experience but seems short of oomph. The store manager who interviews them is only 26. But his abrasive questioning is only the first hurdle on an obstacle course that becomes more challenging.



Patrick Minford takes economic control (C4, 8.00pm)

The Number 10 Show
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The fantasy politics series comes up with its most provocative agenda yet. The supposed prime minister is Patrick Minford, the economics professor from Liverpool University. He is well known as a crusader for monetarism and for helping to shape Thatcherite policy during the 1980s. Under Minford, the basic rate of income tax is 10p, there is no free healthcare or education except in extreme cases and those on state benefits have to repay part of them when they return to work. Minford's aim is to make Britain the Hong Kong of Europe. He claims that his changes will make most families better off. Not everyone believes him.

Survival: Badger Woman
ITV, 7.30pm

For 30 years Eunice Overend has been a champion of the badger. She shares her caravan and garden with half a dozen young badgers at a time, feeding and tending them until they are ready to return to the wild. Badgers are normally shy of the human race but not of her. Overend is far from being a nutty animal-lover. A zoologist, she advises the Ministry of Defence about nature conservation on Salisbury Plain and is campaigning for an effective vaccine to protect animals against tuberculosis. But this film will be remembered for its footage of badgers, scrapping with Overend's dogs and cheekily stealing the food she has put out for foxes.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (1896441)

9.25 Chain Letters (4156422) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2395606)

10.00 The Time ... the Place with John Stapleton (s) (4412373)

10.35 This Morning (90556083) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1243170)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (4179977) **12.55 Emmerdale** (r) (Teletext) (4187996)

1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (61736422) **1.55 Vanessa**. Vanessa Feltz talks to women whose husbands are less than perfect. (Teletext) (s) (32274511)

2.25 A Country Practice (s) (61147441) **2.50 Gardeners' Diary** (9964002)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (7623286) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7622557)

3.30 The Riddlers (9711170) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (3042996) **3.50 Rupert** (r) (7775064) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (s) (2739016) **4.40 Fun House** (Teletext) (s) (8285606)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6814408)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (719489)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (618267)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (118)

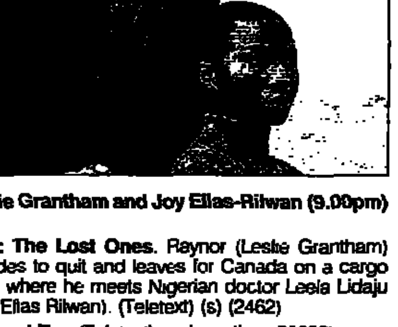
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (170)

7.00 Emmerdale. Nick's night at the cinema is rudely interrupted. (Teletext) (8731)

7.30 CHOICE **Survival: Badger Woman**. (Teletext) (s) (354)

8.00 The Bill: Uncle Bob. When someone makes an official complaint about Bob Cryer's swearing, his exemplary record is on the line. (Teletext) (4151)

8.30 Outside Edge. Comedy starring Timothy Spall and Brenda Blethyn. A member of the team questions Roger's captaincy. (Teletext) (s) (3286)



Leslie Grantham and Joy Elias-Rilwan (9.00pm)

9.00 99-1: The Lost Ones. Raynor (Leslie Grantham) decides to quit and leaves for Canada on a cargo ship, where he meets Nigerian doctor Leela Lidaju (Joy Elias Rilwan). (Teletext) (s) (2462)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (23606)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (260248)

10.40 Revelations (s) (201557)

11.10 Big City. Paul Ross and Carolyn Marshall take a look at what's on in and around London this week (634809)

11.40 Prudential Awards for the Arts 1994 hosted by Patrick Barlow from the National Theatre (196489)

12.15am The Little Picture Show with Mariella Frostrup (r) (402010)

1.15 The Beat (r) (s) (408294)

2.15 The Album Show (r) (s) (6908958)

3.10 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (89949519)

3.35 Sport AM (r) (5041519)

4.30 Videofashion (r) (80126)

5.00 Vanessa (r). (Teletext) (s) (46294)

5.30 ITN Morning News (81720) Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Sandokan Animated adventures of a pirate prince (r) (8207880)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (15712)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (33083)

9.30 Schools. Middle English (5563606) **9.45** The New Living Body (9397915) **10.05** Scientific Eye (2302996) **10.27** Geographical Eye (6155606) **10.50** Your World (6540809) **11.00** History in Action (3547002) **11.20** Rí Ra (2138335) **11.40** The GermanProgramme (3425712)

12.00 House To House (53847)

12.30 Sesame Street with guest Robin Williams (22118)

1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz Animation (r) (s) (82373977)

1.50 La Merle. Bird song animation by Norman McLaren (86215606)

2.00 FILM: Ten North Frederick (1958, b/w) starring Gary Cooper. A drama about a middle-aged lawyer who has an affair with his estranged daughter's room-mate. With Diane Varsi and Suzy Parker. Directed by Philip Dunne (110793)

3.55 From the Horse's Mouth. The second of a five-part series that goes behind-the-scenes of horse racing in Ireland (s) (8310170)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (267)

5.00 Ricki Lake. The studio guests are men who want to propose to women. (Teletext) (s) (7939286)

5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (631118)

6.00 The Cosby Show Domestic comedy series starring Bill Cosby (r). (Teletext) (s) (460)

6.30 Saved By The Bell: The College Years. American campus comedy. (Teletext) (712)

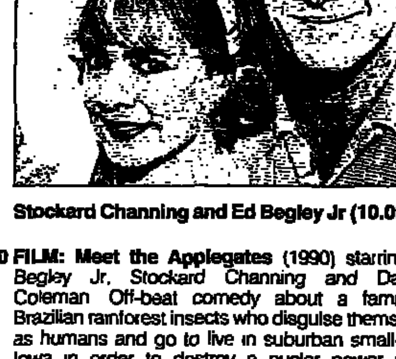
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (952335)

7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (507267)

8.00 CHOICE **The Number 10 Show**. (Teletext) (s) (2793)

8.30 The Pulse. Medical magazine presented by Shahnaz Pakravan. Includes a report on childhood epilepsy. (Teletext) (s) (1828)

9.00 The Rector's Wife. The final part of the adaptation of Joanna Trollope's bestseller starring Lindsay Duncan (r). (Teletext) (s) (8064)



Stockard Channing and Ed Begley Jr (10.00pm)

10.00 FILM: Meet the Applegates (1990) starring Ed Begley Jr, Stockard Channing and Dabney Coleman. Off-beat comedy about a family of Brazilian rainforest insects who disguise themselves as humans and go to live in suburban small-town Iowa in order to destroy a nucler power plant. Directed by Michael Lehmann. (Teletext) (s) (909731)

11.40 Bullpen. Baseball comedy series (s) (254847)

12.10am Dispatches. A repeat of last night's programme. (Teletext) (6200403)

1.00 Key West. Quirky comedy set in Florida (s) (23478)

2.00 FILM: Someone at the Door (1936, b/w) starring Billy Milton, Noah Beery and Aileen Marson. Comedy thriller about a newspaper reporter whose plan to fake his sister's violent death in order to get a scoop goes awry when a real murder is committed. Directed by Herbert Brenon (8456039). Ends at **3.20**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (2395606) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News (1243170) **1.55** The Young Doctors (82378422) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (9964002) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (7622557) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6814408) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (479267) **10.30** Anglia News (260248) **10.40** Cover Story (201557) **11.10** Side Effects (139809) **12.05am** Married with Children (1051229) **12.30** Dead Men Don't Die (172749) **2.10** Nite Bites 2 (4687687) **2.20** The Beat (7827768) **3.15** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (89931590) **3.40** Quiz Night (43396316) **4.05** Videofashion (94621720) **4.35-5.00** Music Box Profile (66461584)

CENTRAL

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (2395606) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (1243170) **1.55** A Country Practice (82378422) **2.50-3.20** Take the High Road (9964002) **3.25-3.30** Central News (7622557) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6814408) **6.25** Central News and Weather (980996) **6.55-7.00** Life Line (291809) **10.30-10.40** Central News and Weather (260248) **11.10-12.15pm** Side Effects (155557) **4.30am** Jobfinder (2790045) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (8960497)

GRANADA

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (2395606) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (1243170) **12.55** Shortland Street (4187996) **1.25** Home and Away (30749880) **1.50** Vanessa (31824070) **2.20** The Main Ingredient (61139422) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (9964002) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (7622557) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6814408) **6.25** Granada Tonight (479267) **7.00-7.30** Emmerdale (8731) **10.30** Granada News (260248) **10.40** Revelations (201557) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (155557) **12.15am** The Little Picture Show (402010) **1.15** The Beat (408294) **2.15** The Album Show (6908958) **3.10** America's Top Ten (89949519) **3.35** Sport AM (5041519) **4.30** Jobfinder (80126) **5.00-5.30** Vanessa (46294)

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.25 Gardening Time (61138793) **2.55-3.20** Shortland Street (7152335) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (7622557) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6814408) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (170) **10.30** HTV West Headlines and Weather (260248) **10.40** Getaways (201557) **11.10** The West This Week (634809) **11.40-12.15pm** Good Health! (196489) **4.30am-5.00** Jobfinder (80126)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (170) **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week (354) **10.40** The Once and Future Valleys (201557) **11.10** Dazed (634809) **11.40-12.15pm** Survival (196489)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82378422) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9964002) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6814408) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (118) **6.30-7.00** Getaways (170) **10.40** The Human Factor (91855847) **12.30am** Dead Men Don't Die (172749) **2.10** Nite Bites 2 (4687687) **2.20** The Beat (7827768) **3.15** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (89931590) **3.40** Quiz Night (43396316) **4.05** Videofashion (94621720) **4.35** Music Box Profile (66461584) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (46294)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 2.25-3.25 Wish You Were Here ? (61138793) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6814408) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (72460) **10.40** The West at Work (201557) **11.10-12.15pm** Prisoner Cell Block H (155557) **4.30am-5.00** Jobfinder (80126)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82378422) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9964002) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6814408) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (595644) **6.30-7.00** Crosswits (170) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (260248) **10.40** Edit V (530489) **11.25** Prisoner Cell Block H (127064) **12.20am** In the Shadow of a Killer (587497) **2.05** America's Top Ten (8215229) **2.35** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (5129590) **3.05** Behind the Mask (964584) **4.50-5.30** Jobfinder (1800584)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (15712) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (33083) **9.30** Ysgolion (365199) **12.00pm** House To House (53847) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (62083) **1.00** Take Five (25199) **1.30** Journeyman (61354) **2.00** Keepers Of The Kingdom: Galapagos — Man Came To Eden (83625) **3.00** Classic Trucks (1064) **3.30** Ricki Lake (9644538) **4.20** Tales Of A Wise King (4698557) **4.30** The Cosby Show (267) **5.00** 5 Pump (5334712) **5.15** Chwedlau Hud A r Ddyled (7522625) **5.30** Countdown (847) **6.00** Newyddion (389489) **6.15** Heno (110002) **7.00** Pobol 'i Cwm (8373) **7.30** Pertformiad Lown Ann (63489) **8.30** Newyddion (1826) **9.00** Ara Cymuned Gardd (8064) **10.00** Rising Damp (21248) **10.30** Wit (96069625) **12.15am** Visions of Heaven and Hell (400652) **1.15** Diwedd

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (74286) **8.00** Power Rangers (2302267) **8.45** Oprah Winfrey (9406793) **9.30** Card Sharks (95335) **10.00** Concentration (5131460) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7495083) **10.30** Candid Camera (66335) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (67199) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (80915) **12.30pm** E Street (99151) **1.00** St Elsewhere (94606) **2.00** I'll Take Manhattan (10793) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (1119644) **3.50** DJ Kat (4726199) **4.30** Power Rangers (3793) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2712) **6.00** Gamesworld (4286) **6.30** Blockbusters (5538) **7.00** E Street (3441) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4422) **8.00** Manhunter (31151) **9.00** Under Suspicion (51915) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (54002) **11.00** David Letterman (795489) **11.50** Littlejohn (487118) **12.40am** Chances (7812720) **1.30** Night Court (39566) **2.00-6.00** Hitmix Long Play (5626519)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (9130977) **9.30** News Extra (60441) **10.30** ABC Nightline (64977) **1.30pm** CBS News (23422) **2.30** Parliament Live (67248) **5.05** Richard Littlejohn (70380441) **9.30** Coverage of the O J Simpson Trial (537489) **12.30am** ABC News (76584) **1.30** News Extra (24942) **2.30** Parliament Replay (23213) **4.30** CBS News (51584) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (30010)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (7599624) **10.00 Bury Me in Niagara** (1992) (58147) **12.00 The Neptune Factor** (1973) (24996) **2.00pm The VIPs** (1963) (45354) **4.00 The Adventures of the Wilderness Family** (1975) (41284118) **5.55 Bury Me in Niagara** (1992) As 10am (15375286) **7.30 E! News Week in Review** (9118) **8.00 Born Yesterday** (1993): Millionaire John Goodman hires journalist Don Johnson to educate girlfriend Melanie Griffith (37335) **10.00 Karate Cop** (1992) (808538) **11.35 Braindead** (1992) (840809) **1.20am Shanghai Surprise** (1986) (515671) **2.55 Overkill: The Aileen Wuornos Story** (1992) (242749) **4.30-6.00 The Adventures of the Wilderness Family** (1975). As 4pm (56039)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Lancelot and Guinevere (1963) (36002) **8.00 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds** (1972) (77501267) **9.45-12.00 Rosemary's Baby** (1968) (69055915)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Treasure of Swamp Castle (1987) (67996) **8.00 Robin Hood** (5178248) **8.55 The Three Musketeers** (41760625) **12.05pm Hook** (1991) (43719354) **2.25 Tarzan Escapes** (1936) (553557) **4.00 Robin Hood** As 8am (23985) **5.00 The Three Musketeers** As 8.55am (6753977) **5.55 Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller** (1987) (14290267) **7.40 Hook** (1991) (46349441) **10.00 Single White Female** (1992) (540977) **11.50 Candy the Stripper** (1991) (135489) **1.30am Lady in a Cage** (1964) (943585) **3.10-4.50 Twenty-One** (1990) (48838300)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (3467903) **7.15** WWF Challenge (675460) **8.15** Soccer News (2719248) **8.30** Snowboard Tour (42070) **9.00** Freestyle Skiing (35422) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (20606) **10.00** Rugby Club (90441) **11.00** Get Your Handicap Down (51441) **11.30** Fish Tales (2434847) **11.45** Sports Classics (2422002) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (15286) **12.30pm** FA Cup Fourth-Round Replay and European Super Cup Highlights (487170) **3.30** Skill Sailing (6248) **4.00** American Sports (42793) **5.00** WWF Action Zone (8538) **6.00** Soccer News (423286) **6.15** Fish Tales (411441) **6.30** Rugby Union (9712) **7.00** Transworld Sport (69737) **8.00** NBA Basketball (86083) **10.00** Soccer News (846354) **10.15** Andy Gray's Bootroom (259606) **11.15** Rugby Union (306793) **11.45** Fish Tales (776644) **12.00** Transworld Sport (17720) **1.00-3.00am** NBA Basketball (84039)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Alpine Skiing (96625) **8.00** Live Alpine Skiing (81985) **9.30** Freestyle Skiing (91335) **10.30** Ski Jumping (82199) **11.30** Live Alpine Skiing (17064) **1.00pm** Adventure (47373) **2.00** Eurofun (3847) **2.30** Snowboarding (9199) **3.00** Tennis (2354) **3.30** Live Tennis (493606) **6.30** News (4880) **7.00** Live Athletics (97354) **9.00** Alpine Skiing (99199) **10.00** Wrestling (32286) **11.00** Golf (93538) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (68861)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (6469625) **8.30** Peyton Place (6468396) **9.00** As the World Turns (1362624) **10.00** Guiding Light (6181828) **11.00-12.00** Another World (6161084)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 Getaway — Australia (6462712) **12.30pm** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (1417996) **1.00** Cruising the Globe (6165880) **1.30** The Real Food of China (1416267) **2.00** California's Gold (8722441) **2.30** Video Trips — New Orleans (7560977) **3.00** America's Great Outdoors (1318170) **4.00** Travel Guide (7584557) **4.30** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (7573441) **5.00** Ski Perfect (8713793) **5.30** The Real Food of China (7564793) **6.00** Getaway (7561606) **6.30** Round Trip — Surfers Paradise (7585286) **7.00** American Vacation (8815557) **8.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (8719977) **8.30** Travel Guide (8721712) **9.00** Getaway (1333489) **9.30** Round Trip (1420460) **10.00** American Vacation (8814828) **11.00** Ski Perfect (1305606) **11.30-12.00** California's Gold (2894064)



Johnson, Griffith, Goodman, *Born Yesterday* (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

TLC

9.00am Flower Power (2317996) **9.30** The Absolute Beginner's Guide to Cookery (1367354) **10.00** Jimmy's (4248712) **10.30** Only Human (1221538) **11.15** Draw with Don (35773880) **11.30** Real Life (4151809) **12.00** Private Lives (2320460) **12.30pm** No Time to Say Goodbye (1361170) **1.00** Absolute Beginner's Guide to Cookery (1920426) **1.30** Flower Power (1360441) **2.00** The Opposite Sex (4249441) **3.00** The Secret Gardens (4034828) **3.30-4.00** Driving (2013977)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (8770903) **7.30** Neighbours (5720688) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2329731) **8.30** EastEnders (2328002) **9.00** The Bill (2319354) **9.30** Colditz (4872199) **10.30** Angels (6387828) **11.30** No Place Like Home (4153267) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2339118) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1370828) **1.00** EastEnders (9120444) **1.30** The Bill (1379199) **2.00** Father, Dear Father (4017151) **2.30** I Didn't Know You Cared (2043118) **3.00** Knots Landing (4157083) **4.00** Dallas (4176118) **5.00** Every Second Counts (4148267) **5.40** Captain Pugwash (8207002) **5.50** Hi-De-Hi (8590460) **6.30** EastEnders (2035199) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9475422) **8.00** I Didn't Know You Cared (4037915) **8.30** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (4016422) **9.00** Minder (9471606) **10.00** The Bill (2330847) **10.30** Top of the Pops (7582644) **11.15** Carrott Confidential (3893441) **11.55** Dr Who (3193373) **12.25am** FILM: What Changed Charley Farthing? (2220294) **2.15** Shopping

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (1616064) **6.55** Garfield (9183441) **7.25** Eek the Cat (8290828) **7.55** Pugwall (3801793) **8.25** Super Mario (1373441) **8.45** Casper (98543) **9.00** Sesame Street (83712) **10.00** It's Drobee Time (23354) **11.00** Teddy Trucks (43118) **12.00** Garfield (33606) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (75170) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (14606) **1.30** Super Mario (21184967) **1.45** Baby Follies (82034860) **2.00** Barney (5847) **2.30** Baber (6441) **3.00** Casper (5802644) **3.15** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (588335) **3.45** Sonic (587606) **4.15** Head to Head (1296489) **4.30-5.00** California Dreams (3977)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Nickalive! (5267985) **7.15** Pee-Wee (699880) **7.45** Rugrats (698151) **8.15** Doug (781335) **8.45** Nickalive! (9040373) **9.00** Nick Jr (493731) **12.00** Pee-Wee (13828) **12.30pm** Muppet Show (22064) **1.00** Galaxy High (99335) **1.30** Banana Sandwich (21335) **2.00** Denver (6793) **2.30** Smoggies (5373) **3.00** Nick Faves (5828) **3.30** Hero Turtles (7118) **4.00** Doug (6625) **4.30** Rugrats (2809) **5.00** Clarissa (9183) **5.30** NickAlive (6489) **6.00** Grimmy (6002) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark (6354)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Nature by Profession (4167460) **5.00** Islands of the Pacific (7417118) **5.50** Man Eaters of the Wild (9285880) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (8909354) **7.00** Australia Wild (4026809) **7.30** Fork in the Road (2022625) **8.00** Time Travellers (4035557) **8.30** World of Adventures (4014064) **9.00** Special Forces (4163644) **9.30** Those Who Dare (1358606) **10.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (9472335) **11.00** Charlie Bravo (4175489) **11.30-12.00** The Global Family (4244396)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: To Have and to Hold (1963) (19369170) **1.15pm** A Home of Your Own (7372199) **2.00** thirtysomething (4243267) **3.00** Rat Patrol (4021354) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (2033731) **4.00** FILM: Dark Star (1974) (5021625) **5.30** Drama Classics (2032002) **6.00** Get Smart (2039915) **6.30** I Spy (2362170) **7.30** Car 54, Where Are You? (2019151) **8.00** thirtysomething (9486538) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (4150170) **9.30** FILM: Planet of the Vampires (1965) (3105170) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (4231422)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5122557) **7.00** Magazine (1464199) **8.00** The Treatment (3899118) **8.30** Rendezvous (3898489) **9.00** Delia Smith (5014996) **9.35** Now You See It (2046644) **10.00** Trivia Trap (8354422) **10.30** Susan Powter (3878625) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (7111624) **12.00** Rendezvous (3869977) **12.30pm** Kilroy (4187064) **1.30** Room for Change (3760151) **2.00** Agony Hour (8355151) **3.00** Magazine (9603064) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (98600538) **4.00** Infatuation (6100422) **4.30** Trivia Trap (38729354) **4.55** Masterchef (6723422) **5.30** Kate and Allie (6120286) **6.00** Susan Powter (6127199) **6.30** The New Mr and Mrs Show (6101151) **7.00** Living Magazine (7726460) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (7702880) **9.00** FILM: Something So Right (57749557) **10.55** Sneak Scenes — Stargate (7168441) **11.00** The New Mr and Mrs Show (4396199) **11.30-12.00** Infatuation UK (8350606)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Dangermouse (6199) **5.30** Where I Live (7557) **6.00** African Skies (701441) **6.25** All Clued Up (351422) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (6335) **7.30** My Two Dads (4606) **8.00** Snowy River (19977) **9.00** Moonlighting (22441) **10.00** Catchphrase (34335) **10.30** GP (43083) **11.00** Lou Grant (24083) **12.00** Rhoda (11923) **12.30am** Big Brother Jake (92300) **1.00** Dangermouse (70316) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (15923) **2.00** Moonlighting (38590) **3.00** Lou Grant (41887) **4.00** Rhoda (58229) **4.30-5.00** Big Brother Jake (88381)

MTV

5.00am Widside (42923) **6.30** The Grind (97441) **7.00** Widside (87793) **8.00** VJ Ingo (309828) **11.00** Soul (12248) **12.00** Greatest Hits (63335) **1.00pm** Afternoon Mix (11606) **3.00** Sports (6712) **3.30** Report (5569986) **3.45** Cinematic (5547151) **4.00** News (1275996) **4.15** 3 from 1 (1298847) **4.30** Dial (5335) **5.00** Music Non-Stop (7064) **6.00** The Pulse (92847) **7.00** Greatest Hits (35915) **8.00** Most Wanted (64199) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (64064) **10.00** Report (371625) **10.15** Cinematic (369880) **10.30** News (888060) **10.45** 3 from 1 (838065) **11.00** The End? (72880) **1.00am** Soul (47671) **2.00** Grind (63107) **2.30** Videos (7988774)

VH-1

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (6154151) **9.00** Café (6596644) **12.00** The Bridge (1438489) **1.00pm** VH-1 to 1 (6174538) **1.30** Ten of the Best (1600996) **2.30** Heart and Soul (2742267) **3.30** Into the Music (4710129) **6.00** Prime Cuts (1427373) **7.00** VH-1 for You (8817915) **8.00** VH-1 Rock (8893335) **9.00** Ten of the Best (8813199) **10.00** The Bridge (1467278) **11.30** The Nightfly (6188927) **1.30am** Ten of the Best (3783652) **2.30** Dawn Patrol (7804126)

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm**, including at **5.00** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Morning (73847) **7.00** Asian Morning (52538) **8.30** Bunyaad (59644) **9.00** Bengali FILM (838925) **12.00** Ghar (81731) **1.00pm** Hindi FILM (930712) **4.00** Kashkool (87165) **5.00** Visuvin Aratta Arangam (3625) **5.30** Paattukku Paattu (4083) **6.00** TVA and You (8002) **6.30** Bunyaad (7354) **7.00** Gul Gulshan Gulfam (7809) **7.30** Dhun Dhamaka (3538) **8.00** News (6557) **8.30** Bollywood Plus (5064) **9.00** Let's Talk (95373) **10.00** Video Junction (98460) **11.00** Bollywood Plus (41064) **11.30** Drama (66996) **12.00** Asian Morning (83923) **1.30am** Sight and Sound (6416861)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm Magic Boy (1960) (40837880) **8.55 The Happy Years** (1950) (15028118) **10.55 Crin-Blanc** (1953) (51761880) **11.55 Un Voyage en Ballon** (1960) (80748642) **1.30am Magic Boy** (1960) As 7pm (75294923) **2.55-5.00 The Happy Years** (1950). As 8.55pm (56123580)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel

48
RUGBY UNION 45
ENGLISH MOVES LIKELY TO GAIN FRENCH BACKING

SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE 46
AMATEURS AIM TO MAKE CUP OPPONENTS PAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 1995

England manager hits back

Fletcher stands firm in face of tour critics

BY SIMON WILDE

WHEN Michael Atherton gave his end-of-tour press conference in Australia on Tuesday, he admitted that he had lacked empathy with his England team. That is unlikely to cost the England cricket captain his job, but it looks increasingly possible that it might cost the England manager his.

The last four months have created confusion and consternation in English cricket, but some of the more clear-cut signals are that Keith Fletcher has lost empathy with the chairman of selectors, the players and — although he never really had it — with the media.

Despite his side's failure to regain the Ashes, there have been plenty of people ready to commend Atherton, including Fletcher, Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, and John Reid, the match referee, but who has been willing to come forward and endorse Fletcher? So far, only Fletcher himself.

Yesterday, he reaffirmed his determination to see out the remainder of his five-year contract, which runs until 1997. "I have not had a rethink about my position at all," he said. "I knew when I took over that it would take at least five years to turn England into a side which won consistently, and I aim to see it through. I don't think this latest loss puts any extra pressure on me and I can see some light at the end of the tunnel."

Fletcher then named several batsmen and bowlers with potential, but one of his problems is that his record of seeing players of potential establish themselves in the England side is poor. On Tuesday, for example, Atherton said that he felt the England team had been treading water since the end of the Caribbean tour, which suggests that Atherton is not looking down the same tunnel.

While Atherton makes plain his advocacy of youth, Fletcher refuses to give ground on the decisions to take Graham Gooch, 41, and Mike Gatting, 37, to Australia, where England proved particularly culpable in the field. "I am not going to say that with hindsight we should not have brought them," Fletcher said. "Hindsight is a brilliant thing, but there was not one person who would have left Graham at home." The prime cause of England's defeat, he said, was a string of injuries and illnesses to leading players — an excuse Atherton has steadfastly refused to make.

The vulnerability of Fletcher's position was most apparent when Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of England's selectors, joined the tour party over Christmas and new year. It was then that the undercurrents of ill-feeling between Fletcher and Illingworth, who had made a scathing reference a few weeks earlier to Fletcher's brief being only the supervision of catching practice, came perilously close to the surface.

Whatever Illingworth may say, Fletcher perceives one of his roles to be the batting coach, but in Australia even this position was undermined. It was possibly no coincidence that, while the relationship between manager and players became more remote, the specialist batsmen underachieved. Even Graham Thorpe, England's leading runmaker in the Tests, could have done better, as he did not make the most of several good starts and recorded a century only in the last Test.

Another reason — and it is an increasingly persuasive one — for the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to buy Fletcher out of his contract is the aura of defeat that surrounds him. Fletcher has become so familiar with defeat — England have lost 15 and won only five of the 26 Test matches since he became manager — that he is rarely positive about their chances, most famously in Adelaide last month, when he stated after the third day that England could not hope to win. Through uncharacteristically enterprising play, they turned the match around and won by 106 runs.

Alan Smith, the TCCB chief executive, said yesterday that, although it is too late for Fletcher's future to be placed on the agenda of its spring meeting next month, if either Illingworth or the counties wanted the manager removed, the means could be found. The problem then would be defining the role of, and choosing, a successor in time for the internationals this year, which start in May.

Reid, who refereed all five of the Ashes Tests and reprimanded Atherton in Adelaide for failing to ensure play was "conducted within the spirit of the game", yesterday praised the England and Australia captains for their overall conduct in the series.

"I am pleased to state that I have found a revival of the traditional spirit of the game in this Ashes series," he said. "They [the captains] responded to the umpires' infrequent requests for them to control their players on the field, and I have had their utmost co-operation in this regard."

Changes must be made ... 42
England A triumph 42
Streak strikes 42



Fletcher: defiant

Late goal punctures England challenge



Jason Lee, left, tangles with Lailin Hassan, of Malaysia, during a 1-1 draw in the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday. A goal conceded with minutes to go ended England's hopes of reaching the semi-finals. Photograph: Kamal Kishore. Report, page 45.

Coppell seeks return to management bearpit

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE COPPELL is ready to end his self-imposed exile from football management almost two years after leaving Crystal Palace. Coppell will step down as the chief executive of the League Managers' Association (LMA) at the end of next month and his decision to return to active club duty will sound the alert in several Premiership boardrooms.

"Once the bug has bitten you, as I've discovered recently, you stay bitten," Coppell, whose post will go to the former Portsmouth manager, Jim Smith, said.

"In the last few weeks I've been watching games and found myself wondering what I would do if the teams were mine."

The former Manchester United and England winger, whose playing career ended through injury at the age of 28, was in charge at Selhurst Park from 1984-93. He took the club to promotion from the second division in 1989 but resigned when Crystal Palace were relegated in 1993.

Since then, Coppell has been linked constantly with managerial vacancies and the speculation will now intensify.

George Graham's future as the Arsenal manager may be in doubt because of a Football Association investigation into transfer dealings — Coppell is a member of the Premiership inquiry team — the Sheffield Wednesday manager, Trevor Francis, has been linked with a move to Italy and Brian Horton is under pressure at Manchester City because of poor results.

Coppell, 39, confirmed: "I've turned down several attractive offers in the past year. I'm very, very sorry to be leaving the LMA, but I suddenly realised I didn't want to spend the next 20 years wondering if I'd packed up management too early."

Smith, meanwhile, relishes his new challenge after finally turning his back on management after 27 years at seven clubs. "It's a great life but a tough one and I've had a long but enjoyable stint," he said.

"I'm proud of my achievements including the three-and-a-half years at Portsmouth — an FA Cup semi-final, twice in the play-offs and more than £3million profit in the transfer market.

"But now I'm ready for a new and exciting challenge. Thanks to the hard work done by Steve and the committee, the LMA is able to make a very positive contribution to the game's future. I must make sure it continues to make that contribution."



Coppell: "still bitten"

Wright ready to step into the breach for Liverpool

Peter Ball finds a stark contrast in reactions to the "professional" foul that edged Burnley closer to defeat in the FA Cup on Tuesday

Liverpool's disciplinary record has started to wobble at just the wrong time. The red cards picked up by Phil Babb, at Nottingham Forest on Saturday, and Neil Ruddock, against Burnley on Tuesday night, mean that Liverpool will play two vital cup-ties without a key central defender.

Both Babb and Ruddock were sent off for "professional" fouls, bringing down an opponent as he headed for goal with nobody else to bar his path. The offence carries a one-match suspension and Babb will miss the FA Cup fifth-round tie with Wimbledon at Anfield on February 19, Ruddock the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on February 22. Their absences are likely to mean that Mark Wright — hitherto Liverpool's invisible man this season after a dispute last summer with Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and spells nursing Achilles and calf injuries — will be called up as the replacement for his first senior games after an absence from the first team of 11 months.

"I've said all along that I still want to be part of the success at Liverpool," Wright said yesterday. "I'm very nearly fully fit, although not yet match-fit. It is very disappointing to lose Babb and Ruddock, because they have been doing very well, as have the whole defence, but I still have a point to prove to the manager."

It was Ruddock's first dismissal for 2½ years, and, ironically, came less than a week after he had been held up as an example of a rumbustious defender who had come to terms with new dispensations imposed by Fifa, the world governing body.

Jimmy Mullen, the Burnley manager, was not satisfied with a simple sending-off. The use of the word "professional" to describe such a foul has been questioned over the years, but, on this occasion, Mullen had no doubt that, with Robinson otherwise free on goal, Liverpool had benefited from the cynicism of Ruddock.

"The rules in this country say that, when someone is clean through and someone brings them down, it's an automatic sending off, but that denies you a goal, doesn't it?" Mullen said. "The sending off was poor reward for us, because Robinson would have scored. I'd have put my house on that. It was a clear-cut chance."

Burnley were also unhappy that, minutes earlier, the referee had ignored Robinson's appeals for a penalty as he went down. The two incidents meant that Liverpool survived, but without impressing anyone, least of all Evans, who was scathing about his side's poor performance.

"The main thing about cup-ties is that you get through, and that's fine," Evans said, "but you know, over a period, that if you play that sort of stuff, you won't win many games. We've got to improve, full stop.

"The effort was all right, but the thought which went into it was not good enough. We over-elaborated in everything we did. We've talked about simplicity. We've talked about passing, but it's all got to be done with a purpose and not just for the sake of passing."

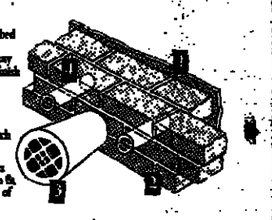
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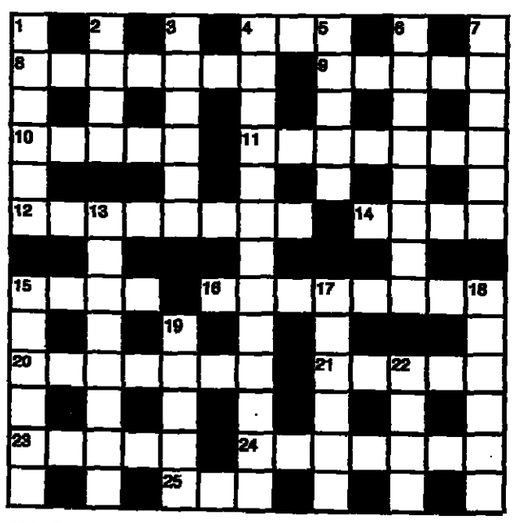
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 391

ACROSS
4 Mammal; club (3)
8 Inflict severe pain (7)
9 One sandwich; several beers (5)
10 Milk container; agitate (5)
11 Soothing cough-mixture (7)
12 Army NCO; policeman (8)
14 Portent (4)
15 Mild desire (4)
16 (Length of) intervening space (8)
20 Petroleum source (3,4)
21 Recess for statue (5)
23 (Of bad weather) become persistent (3,2)
24 Productive (7)
25 Take weight off feet (3)

DOWN
1 Bright flowers; supplies (6)
2 Language of Pakistan (4)
3 Subtle shade of meaning (6)
4 NATO anti-blockade operation, 1948 (6,7)
5 Restaurant tip pool (5)
6 Field sportsman (8)
7 Thomas –, phonograph inventor (6)
13 Determined (8)
15 (Move with) hissing, rushing sound (6)
17 Treeless permafrost zone (6)
18 Hole for hook, cord (6)
19 Wealth; resource (5)
22 Front of jaw (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 390

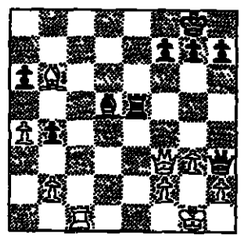
ACROSS: 1 Upshot 5 Tickle 8 Loud 9 In no time 10 Wakeful 11 Manor 13 Cost a packet 16 Folly 18 Peopled 21 Of course 22 Glib 23 Prefix 24 Senate

DOWN: 2 Prosaic 3 Hedge 4 Tribunal 5 Tang 6 Cut back 7 Limbo 12 Baseless 14 Sold off 15 T S Eliot 17 Offer 19 Pagan 20 Crux

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Luschowski - Griedner, USSR 1976. White appears to be in trouble due to Black's threats on the long diagonal. However, he has counterchances based on the vulnerability of Black's back rank. Can you see what he played? Be careful - there is a trap in the position.



Solution, page 46
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PECULANT
a. Spotty
b. With cloven hooves
c. Embezzling

POGONION
a. A shallot
b. The point of the chin
c. A hypothetical positive ion

REBAB
a. A stringed instrument
b. Unpleasant, repellent
c. To resile from

SANSA
a. A twanging instrument
b. A milky health drink
c. A gymnastic elastic rope

Answers on page 46